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USSR Report

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

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24 February 1984

USSR REPORT

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

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USSR-WORLD TRADE

USSR-SPAIN; SIXTH SESSION OF JOINT COMMISSION

Moscow FOREIGN TRADE in English No 1, Jan 84 p 19

[Text]

Last September the Soviet-Spanish Joint Commission on control of the progress made in fulfilling the Trade Agreement between the USSR Government and the Spanish State dated September 15, 1972, held its sixth session in Madrid.

A.N. Manzhulo, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, was the leader of the Soviet delegation, and D. Luis de Velasco Rami, State Secretary for Trade of the Economics and Finances Ministry, led the Spanish delegation. The USSR Ambassador in Spain, Yu.V. Dubinin took part in the discussions.

The sides exchanged information about both countries' economies, summed up the results of Soviet-Spanish trade and mapped out prospects for the two countries' bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

The delegations stated that since the fifth session (1979) Soviet-Spanish trade had made further strides, its volume had increased and the range of mutually delivered goods widened.

The Soviet Union supplies Spain with oil and oil products, chemicals, timber, ferrous metal scrap, cars, mining equipment, bearings.

Spain exports to the USSR: ferrous metallurgy products, some types of machines and equipment, pulp-and-paper goods, various kinds of leather, citrus, wine, olive and soya oils, brandy spirit, and cereals.

The sides noted the useful practice of exchanging views on the state and prospects of bilateral trade and economic relations as had happened at the meeting held in Moscow, May 1983, between F. Morán, Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, and N.S. Patolichev, USSR Minister of Foreign Trade.

The delegations agreed that both countries organizations and firms' regular participation in exhibitions and fairs in the

USSR and Spain, including the organization in Moscow of symposiums on container shipments, shipbuilding and Spain's other industries, were conducive to the sides' better knowledge of each other's possibilities and mutual trade growth. The sides confirmed their readiness to keep rendering assistance in arranging such undertakings. The session noted the positive role played by meetings of the Soviet-Spanish and Spanish-Soviet Trade Promotion Committees set up under the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Spain's Supreme Council of the Official Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Navigation.

At the same time the sides underlined that bilateral trade fell short of both countries' economic potentialities and that the share of machines, equipment and finished products still remained small in the total trade turnover.

The Commission studied prospects of furthering bilateral cooperation and was satisfied to note that a long-term contract had been concluded for the shipment to the USSR of 1.4 million tons of superphosphoric acid between 1984 and 1993. Contracts had been signed for the delivery from Spain of containers and storage batteries to the Soviet Union.

The delegations, however, agreed that additional measures were needed to improve the mutual trade structure. Specifically, the Soviet side expressed interest in expanding and diversifying its exports to Spain, primarily machines, equipment and manufactures. The Spanish side, in its turn, stressed its interest in supplying the USSR with farm produce, ferrous metal-lurgy products, machinery, equipment, ships and different finished products on the basis of long- and medium-term agreements and contracts which would ensure the more stable shipments of Spanish exports.

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English translation, "Foreign Trade", 1984

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USSR-WORLD TRADE

USSR, INDIA MARK 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST TRADE AGREEMENT

Moscow SOVIET EXPORT in English No 6, Nov-Dec 83 p 10

[Text]

Signed on December 2, 1953, the first Soviet-Indian five-year intergovernmental trade agreement laid a firm legal basis for bilateral commercial ties between the two countries. The agreement obligated the parties to take every measure to promote and strengthen their two-way trade and to grant maximum privileges in terms of goods delivery. The most-favoured-nation treatment extended to shipping as well.

The USSR and India have since concluded five agreements, running five years each, the 1981—1985 agreement being the sixth. A key feature of these agreements is the favourable conditions they provide for trade on a long-term planned basis. The agreements specifically stipulate the goods that are to be delivered by each party; being non-restrictive, however, they do not in any way hamper the expansion of the range of goods covered by Soviet-Indian trade. The experience of three decades has provided convincing proof of the mutually beneficial character of Soviet-Indian trade. All payments are made in rupees to avoid the need for either country to spend hard currency, and all of the proceeds due to the Soviet Union for credits granted and goods sold to India are used to buy Indian goods.

The planned long-term nature of Soviet-Indian trade relations helps them to develop successfully and in a sustained manner. An annual protocol on goods turnover is drawn up to specify, for the respective year, the parties' contractual deliveries. This enables both the USSR and India to plan beforehand their deliveries under the agreements and protocols in their respective current economic development plans.

Today India is the Soviet Union's biggest trade partner among the developing nations. For its part, the Soviet Union is India's most important partner leading in that country's foreign trade since 1981. Recent years have seen the most significant results of Soviet-Indian trade: in 1982 it topped 2,500 million roubles, growing more than 3.5 times against the 1975 level. This rapid growth was largely due to greater reciprocal deliveries of goods and to their substantially broader range, now including more than 200 items.

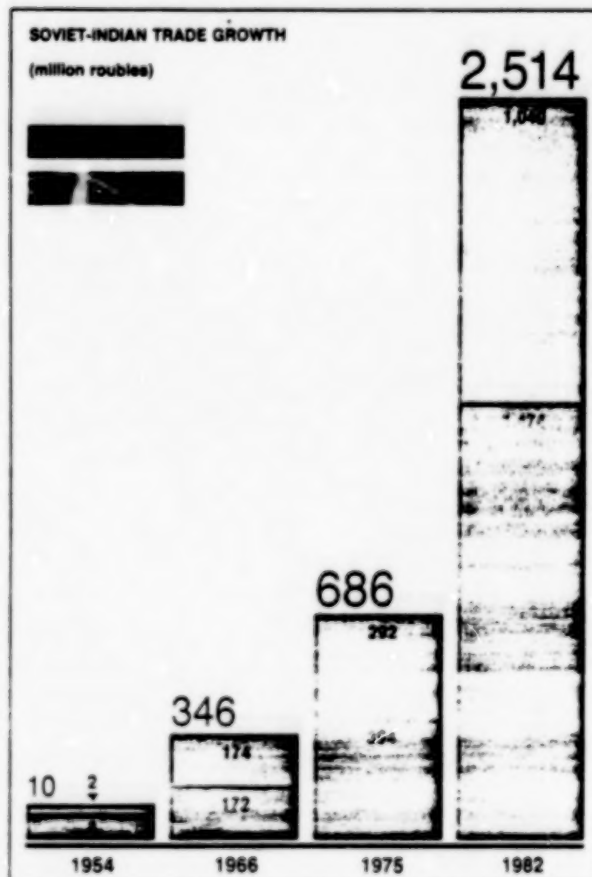
The goods structure of Soviet exports to India has substantially changed over the past two decades. After India had achieved independence, the USSR actively assisted that country in its industrialisation programme through supplying plant and equipment for a number of major industrial projects. This helped India to build up heavy industries vital for her economy and to develop her own power and mechanical engineering industries. As a result, being in a position to draw on her own engineering capability, India has, since the

seventies, been progressively cutting down on machinery and equipment imports—until then her major imports from the USSR.

The Soviet Union is one of the biggest importers of India's staple products—tea, coffee, black pepper and other species, tobacco, raw leather for small items, mica, jute products, etc. Over half of the USSR's imports from India are finished industrial items. The Soviet Union is purchasing a growing amount of garage equipment, storage batteries, auto appliances, printing equipment, thermally insulated containers, boilers, etc. Taking into account the increased potentials of India's engineering industries, the Soviet Union places orders with Indian factories for products to be delivered to third countries for use in industrial projects built with Soviet assistance. The Soviet purchases of Indian industrial products and many staple export items provide jobs for hundreds of thousands of Indian workers and stimulate the expansion of production for export.

Favourable prospects for a future boost of Soviet-Indian trade were created by the Long-Term Programme of Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Co-operation between the USSR and India of March, 1979. The programme provides for a 50 to 100% increase in Soviet-Indian trade between 1981 and 1985 and for a similar rate of growth of mutual goods turnover until 1990.

The current, 6th five-year trade agreement covering the years 1981 through 1985 and other documents signed by the two countries ensure the fulfilment of this objective in this five-year period.



ACTIVITIES OF PROMMASHEXPORT TRADE ORGANIZATION SUMMARIZED

Moscow SOVIET EXPORT in English No 6, Nov-Dec 83 pp 23-25

[Article by A. F. Zverev, PROMMASHEXPORT chairman: "PROMMASHEXPORT: More Than 600 Installations Built"]

[Text]

"To Promote Economic Progress" is the motto of V/O PROMMASHEXPORT, one of the largest All-Union foreign trade associations under the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. PROMMASHEXPORT was set up in 1957.

In the 25 years V/O PROMMASHEXPORT has helped build more than 600 installations abroad. At present, it is building a further 375 industrial installations in 34 countries. We have built a number of factories in socialist countries—Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the DPRK, the GDR, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the People's Republic of China, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, in the developing countries—Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Iraq, Pakistan, the PDRY, Peru, and others, and are building more. All the factories are operating at a profit and building up their output capacities.

Most of these industrial installations are engineering factories. The Soviet Union has helped Bulgaria, for instance, lay the engineering groundwork for its heavy industry. The Karlov Tractor Works built there is capable of producing 15,000 tractors a year.

One of Europe's largest bearing plants has been put into operation in Debrecen, Hungary. It puts out over 10 million ball and roller bearings a year.

Latin America's first sugar cane harvester plant has been built in Cuba with our organisation's assistance. The Planta Mecanica factory, the engineering base for the sugar refining industry, is being reconstructed in Santa-Clara. A metalwork plant with an output capacity of 10,000 tons of items a year has been built in Las-Tunas.

A number of factories and other industrial installations have been put into operation in Vietnam with our organisation's assistance, the most important of them being the Hanoi Engineering Factory manufacturing milling and drilling machines, lathes and other production equipment as well as spare parts for cars and tractors.

V/O PROMMASHEXPORT actively promotes India's industrial progress. Several large engineering plants have been built there to Soviet designs, including the Ranchi Heavy Engineering Plant with a production capacity of 80,000 tons a year. The plant produces rolling mills, blast- and open-hearth furnace and coke-oven battery equipment, metallurgical cranes, crushing and grinding machines, building mechanisms. The construction of the plant in Ranchi has provided a strong impetus for the development of India's metallurgical industry fitted out with equipment of that country's own making.

Another large industrial installation—a mining equipment

plant with a production capacity of 45,000 tons a year—has gone into operation in Durgapur. The plant produces all the mining equipment India needs. The Heavy Electrical Engineering Plant in Hardwar is the biggest of its kind in Southern and South-East Asia. It produces about 60% of the electrical machines used in India's state sector.

The engineering factories built with PROMMASHEX-PORT's co-operation in Algeria, the People's Republic of China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Mozambique promote those countries' industrial progress.

Next on our export list come communication facilities. Powerful medium- and short-wave broadcasting stations have been built in Bulgaria, Bangladesh, the DPRK, Egypt, the GDR, Guinea, Hungary, India, Iraq, Madagascar, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Vietnam; the USSR-India tropospheric communication line has gone into service. Intersputnik space communication systems involving artificial earth satellites have been built in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Cuba, the GDR, Hungary, Laos, Mongolia, Poland, Vietnam with Soviet technical assistance. These systems provide telephone, telegraph, facsimile and telex communication services and make possible the exchange of broadcasting and television programmes.

Sea and river fishing facilities, ship-repair yards and fish processing factories figure prominently on PROMMASHEX-PORT's list. A fishing harbour has been built in Havana, Cuba's capital, with the organisation's technical assistance. It comprises mechanical repair shops, a fish-meal shop, warehouses, a floating dock and other production and auxiliary structures catering to 130 fishing trawlers. A large fishing port is being built in the PDRY with V/O PROMMASHEXEXPORT's assistance. A shipyard has been reconstructed in Angola. A ship-repair complex with a floating dock of an 8,000 ton lifting capacity is under construction in Mozambique.

Fishing trawlers of the SRTM (medium refrigerating trawler) and MRTR (small refrigerating trawler) type and other fishing

vessels complete with fishing equipment and spares are supplied to many countries. Under special contracts, ships may be staffed with Soviet crews to train local personnel in advanced fishing methods.

The association, jointly with industrial ministries—general suppliers, design and research institutes, renders its clients technical assistance in designing, building and commissioning industrial installations abroad. V/O PROMMASHEXEXPORT's orders are fulfilled by some two thousand factories in the Soviet Union.

A major supplier of complete plant, V/O PROMMASHEX-PORT also offers licences and know-how for the latest manufacturing processes. Foreign firms show interest in the techniques of making glass insulators for high-voltage power transmission lines, precision investment casting, the manufacture of roller chains for farm machines. The export of licences and know-how by our organisation grew more than fivefold over the past five years.

PROMMASHEXEXPORT sends Soviet specialists abroad to render its clients assistance in all stages of designing and building industrial installations and in putting them into operation. At the same time, foreign personnel undergo production training at Soviet factories. At our clients' request, Soviet specialists work at many factories built with the association's assistance.

In the 25 years of its existence, V/O PROMMASHEXEXPORT has sent 30,000 Soviet specialists to 43 countries. Over the same period, about 9,000 foreign specialists from 21 countries underwent production training in the USSR.

In the client's interests, our association co-operates with foreign trade organisations and firms of various countries in building industrial installations and in supplying complete plant.

V/O PROMMASHEXEXPORT's vigorous activity aimed at mutually beneficial economic co-operation is universally recognised. In 1981, it was awarded two international prizes: For Achievements in Export Trade and The Gold Mercury.

SOCIALIST COUNTRIES SEEK FEWER TRADE BARRIERS, MORE COUNTERTRADE

Moscow FOREIGN TRADE in English No 1, Jan 84 pp 15-18

[Article by Alexey Litviakov and Galina Fadina: "The ECE and East-West Trade and Economic Relations"]

[Text]

The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was established within the United Nations Organization in 1947 on the initiative of the socialist countries to unite efforts for the reconstruction of the war-devastated national economies and the organization of efficient trade and economic cooperation in Europe. With a membership of 35 states (practically all European countries, as well as the USA and Canada) the Commission today is an authoritative international agency, the unique one dealing with multilateral economic cooperation in the region. It is used by the governments of countries having different social systems for exchanges of information and experience and for the exposition of their attitudes on specific problems of cooperation with a view to finding practical solutions.

The ECE was assigned a special role in the implementation of the pertinent provisions and recommendations of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Final Act gave a new impulse to the Commission's activities, defined the main fields of its work.

Since its inception the ECE has been striving to achieve greater mutual understanding between the European nations and extend their economic and trade cooperation. Much credit goes to the socialist countries which have been making consistent efforts to enhance the Commission's role in tackling the important prob-

lems of cooperation in the region. Due to the initiatives of the socialist countries the Commission has repeatedly adopted resolutions and decisions aimed at facilitating East-West trade and economic cooperation, as well as cooperation in other fields.

It ought to be mentioned that the ECE's potentialities to promote all-European cooperation are far from being used to the utmost largely due to differing attitudes taken by its member-countries on a whole series of large number of problems of principal importance in international relations.

The ECE performs its functions through relevant committees and other principal subsidiary bodies. It has eleven committees dealing with coal, gas, electric power, iron and steel, timber, agriculture, housing, building and planning, chemical industry, water problems, internal transport and development of trade, and four other subsidiary bodies: the Conference of European Statisticians, Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments, Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems, Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology.

The terms of reference of the ECE Secretariat which is part of the UN Secretariat covers the research by the ECE on the region's economic problems, preparation of memoranda and reports, accomplishment of contacts with ECE governments, planning of the Commission's and its subsidiary bodies' meetings, preparation and distribution of documents.

Practically all ECE committees to a certain degree are concerned with the development of trade between the countries. For example, the Timber Committee is examining the non-tariff barriers in the timber trade and works out recommendations for their elimination; the Inland Transport Committee applies itself to the simplification and coordination of administrative formalities and customs procedures. A number of the committees are concerned with the formulation of uniform technical standards and removal of technical barriers in individual commodity exchange. In many committees an exchange of economic and commercial information takes place.

The ECE is taking steps to intensify its activities in

the field of trade and industrial cooperation. The work along these lines was reviewed by the Committee on the Development of Trade at its 26th session (1977) and the 33rd session of the ECE (1978).

A comprehensive study of the problems of intra- and interregional trade is the main concern of the Committee on the Development of Trade which is the ECE's major body dealing with trade policy issue and the trade and economic relations between European countries having different socio-economic systems. At its meetings the Committee discusses the current and possible future trends, policies and problems in trade between the countries of the region. The ECE Secretariat annually presents to the Committee a *European Economic Bulletin* which, specifically, contains an annual survey of the trends and prospects of the development of trade, as well as materials on political changes affecting regional trade. In their speeches at the sessions of the Committee the different delegations raise the most important problems of East-West trade and economic relations.

The ECE Secretariat keeps an annual informative register of the latest data on long-term agreements between countries having different social systems on trade, economic, industrial and technical cooperation. Examination of the agreements in force, analysis of their essence makes it possible to evaluate the experience gained by individual countries and determine ways of evolution of contractual relations between Eastern and Western countries; it facilitates the broadening of the East-West trade's contractual basis and presents an opportunity to take into consideration new aspects while concluding agreements to rise their efficiency.

One of main directions of the activity of the Committee on the Development of Trade is the work aimed at the removal of obstacles in the intra-regional trade. For three decades the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have been extending consistent support to this activity of the ECE, insisting on the elimination of trade policy discrimination in East-West relations. On the initiative of the socialist countries the Committee regularly discusses the problem of trade barriers' removal.

Since the early 1970s the ECE Secretariat has been keeping a Consolidated Inventory of all Kinds of Obstacles to the Development of Trade continually renewed and up-dated on the basis of the ECE member-countries' notifications. The new revised and updated document appeared in 1982. The work on the Inventory until lately was the only activity of the Committee in the field of removing obstacles to trade. A series of special meetings on this point within the framework of the Committee has yielded no tangible results.

Despite the Western countries' stubborn attempts to restrict the Committee's activities only to inventory keeping, the socialist countries' delegations have been invariably seeking more practical results insisting that the Committee draft recommendations contain proposals on specific measures aimed at the elimination of obstacles in trade.

The first step towards this objective was made by the Committee on the Development of Trade at its 31st session (December 1982) when it decided to call a special experts' meeting in 1983 to examine the obstacles notified by the ECE member-governments, which were included in the Consolidated Inventory of all Kinds of Obstacles to the Development of Trade. The aim was to select the notifications for further action: (a) to be examined by the Committee, (b) to be transferred to other competent bodies for multilateral or bilateral considerations, or (c) to be withdrawn from the inventory. This meeting was held in September 1983 in Geneva. Its results provide real grounds for the ECE's practical activities in eliminating obstacles to trade. The meeting formulated proposals on the Commission's possible ways of handling member-countries' notifications on their substance. These proposals were handed over for consideration to the 32nd session of the Committee (December 1983) for approval and determination, how to deal with the notifications to be examined by the Committee, and for working out practical recommendations on measures to eliminate obstacles to trade.

Such activities of the ECE agree with the intentions of the countries-participants in the Conference on Se-

curity and Cooperation in Europe to make further efforts to reduce and gradually eliminate all kinds of obstacles restricting the development of trade as fixed in the Final Document dated September 6, 1983, of the Madrid Meeting. The participating countries in this Document recommend that future efforts along these lines "be directed, in particular, towards identifying these obstacles and examining them with a view to finding means for their reduction or progressive elimination, in order to contribute to the harmonious development of their economic relations."

In their efforts to normalize East-West trade the socialist countries proceed from the urgent need to eliminate trade discriminations and to stop the discriminatory practices of some Western countries. At the 31st meeting of the Committee and the 38th ECE session (April 1983) the Soviet and other CMEA countries' delegations strongly condemned the Western states for practices hamstringing East-West trade, especially, the politically-motivated practices of sanctions and blockades exercised by the USA.

The Committee on the Development of Trade devotes much attention to the most promising forms of trade and economic cooperation between the countries of the region. Nowadays, when the development of international trade is closely interlinked with the expanded scientific and technical relations, specialization and cooperation in production, increasing importance is attached to industrial cooperation as an important stabilizing and stimulating factor promoting expansion and diversification of economic relations between the socialist and the industrially developed Western countries.

In 1973 the ECE Secretariat prepared an Analytical Report on Industrial Cooperation among ECE Countries. In 1979 it compiled another document entitled East-West Industrial Cooperation which in fact was a continuation of the Analytical Report. Both documents give a detailed description and survey of the trends of industrial cooperation among the ECE countries: its dynamics, specific forms and current practices.

Problems of promoting industrial cooperation have

been repeatedly discussed at many special meetings within the framework of the Committee on the Development of Trade. The last meeting was held in 1980 in Plovdiv (Bulgaria). It discussed individual countries' proposals on increased industrial cooperation.

Discussions within the Committee on the Development of Trade of industrial cooperation problems are of considerable interest to all countries from the point of view of finding ways and means for its enlargement, exchange of experience, information and working out common policy in this field.

More attention has been paid by the Committee in recent years to compensation trade. These problems were discussed at the Committee's sessions and at special meetings within its framework in October-November 1980 and July 1983.

The ECE's activity in this field is complicated by the tendentious approach of some Western countries to compensation-based cooperation, their attempts to minimize the role of long-term, large-scale compensation arrangements, to equalize them with standard business contracts and treat these two radically different forms of commercial operations as identical.

In the Commission the socialist countries are making efforts aimed at finding a methodological approach to compensation trade with a view to define the important difference between the "long-term, large-scale compensation-based projects" realized within the industrial cooperation framework, on the one hand, and "separate operations based on counter-purchases," on the other. As a result, at the last meeting on compensation trade (1983) they succeeded in their efforts to examine separately the set of problems relating to various forms of compensation deals thus making it possible to discuss in greater detail the practical problems arising in particular cases. Western representatives had to admit that their argument against compensation trade did not refer to compensation arrangements within the sphere of industrial cooperation.

It was noted at the meeting that the difficulties arising in counter-purchases encountered by both Western and East-European partners in most cases are

international trade problems as a whole and could only be coped with and solved by the efforts of both sides.

An important aspect of the Committee on the Development of Trade's activities concerns licensing and technical cooperation. Under the auspices of the Committee and the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology a *Manual on Licensing Procedures in ECE Member-Countries* was published which is to be enlarged and updated on receipt of new data from the governments of the ECE member-countries. Also, the ECE Secretariat consults the member-countries' governments about the participation in the Seminar on Technology Transfer as it affects the Development of Trade and Economic Cooperation.

The Committee's attention is also focused on exchanges of economic, commercial and administrative information relevant to the development of trade. These problems were discussed at the Committee's sessions and at the ad-hoc meeting in 1980 sponsored by the Committee where a series of proposals were made concerning the activities of the ECE and other international agencies in the field of information.

In keeping with a provision of the Helsinki Final Act according to which all participating countries undertook to carry on a study within the ECE framework on possibilities of creating a multilateral system of notification of laws and regulations concerning foreign trade and changes therein, the Committee on the Development of Trade conducted a series of experiments on introducing such a system; specifically, answers have been collected to questionnaires on primary and secondary sources of information in the countries, on sources of information relevant to any future notification system. Pursuant to the resolution of the 31st session of the Committee the ECE Secretariat is bound to monitor all aspects of information activities: its availability for the users, requests for, access to and search for various information, as well as the technical changes occurring therein.

To improve mutual understanding among partners and develop generally-accepted terminology the Secretariat put forward for consideration of the Committee

on the Development of Trade at its 31st meeting a Model of Draft Glossary of Terms (commercial, financial, economic and legal) frequently used in East-West Trade and Industrial Cooperation. The aim is to achieve uniform interpretation of the most widely used terms. The first attempt, however, has not been quite successful because the choice of terms and their interpretation by the ECE Secretariat were somewhat tendentious.

If the Committee succeeds in a more thorough selection of terms for the glossary and their clear-cut and objective definitions it will be a useful instrument assisting the partners to develop better mutual understanding and create more favourable conditions for intra-regional trade.

For many years the Committee on the Development of Trade has been actively dealing with problems concerning the organization and techniques of foreign trade and unification and facilitation of the existing trade procedures. From 1951 to 1964 some 30 general conditions of sales and contracts on deliveries of industrial and other products were formulated in the ECE. The Secretariat's recent study indicates that member-countries are still making wide use of these documents.

At present these problems are handled by the Committee's permanent subsidiary bodies. For example, the Group of experts on International Practices in Industry has prepared the following documents: Guide on drawing up international contracts on industrial cooperation, Guide for drawing up international contracts between parties associated for the purpose of executing a specific project, and Guide for drawing up international contracts on consulting engineering, including some related aspects of technical assistance. The Group plans to continue its work on codification of rules and standards in East-West trade and economic cooperation. Now it is engaged in drafting a guide on drawing up international contracts for services relating to maintenance, repair and operation of industrial and other works.

Useful work is carried on by the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures set up in 1960 which is engaged in drafting recommendations on

the facilitation and standardization of trade documents and the reduction of their number. The Working Party is assisted by other international organizations dealing with specific aspects of foreign trade operations. For instance, in 1963 it developed an ECE Layout Key which is used by international organizations when drawing up documents. In 1961 this Layout Key was published as an official document by the UN. Its purpose was to assist in working out a uniform series of documents. It has been used to formulate many international and national documentation systems.

This Working Party also systematically deals with the preparation of recommendations on the improvement and facilitation of international trade procedures. Recently, for example, it adopted a recommendation on Facilitation measures related to international trade procedures.

The ECE member-countries attach great significance to the thorough examination and practical application of the Working Party's recommendations both nationally and internationally.

The Committee on the Development of Trade has sponsored a series of seminars on East-West trade promotion, marketing and business contacts in which many representatives of the ECE member-countries' business circles actively participated. A wide range of questions relating to the development of regional trade, business contacts, methods of marketing of consumer goods and industrial equipment in the field of licensing and leasing were discussed at the seminars. The seminars dealt with the following subjects: Marketing of capital and consumer goods in the context of East-West trade, methods and techniques of market entry for industrial products (machinery, instruments and chemicals) in East-West trade. The following theme has been agreed upon for discussion at the next seminar: Marketing of construction machinery and production equipment and for the construction machinery sectors, marketing channels, practices and trends in East-West trade.

The Committee on the Development of Trade is also working at the solution of a number of other questions on the promotion of trade and industrial cooperation in

the region, specifically, the policies and methods of facilitating the participation of small and medium-size enterprises in intra-regional trade; the trade problems of the ECE member-countries considered by the Commission as developing from the economic point of view; the trade aspects of international standardization and certification procedures; etc.

The studies and discussions in the Committee of both the trade policy and technical aspects of economic relations between countries having different social systems assist coordination of measures and pooling of efforts aimed at extending further regional cooperation and assuring better conditions for trade and industrial cooperation. The ECE and its Committee on the Development of Trade have the opportunities which can be used by the ECE member-countries to improve the climate of East-West trade policy relations and implement the Helsinki and Madrid agreements reached at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and reflected in the Final Acts signed in Helsinki and Madrid.

The Madrid Meeting devoted much attention to the ECE's role and significance in promoting the harmonious development of relations between the countries of the region. Specifically, it reached consensus on the maximum use of the opportunities offered by the ECE for cooperation in many fields and adopted recommendations on specific aspects of the Commission's activities.

The results of the Madrid Meeting and its re-affirmation of the ECE's role in the all-European process of expanding cooperation in economics, science, technology and environmental protection should act as a new impetus to the ECE and extend its activities.

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REVIEW OF SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO IRAN CRITICIZES ROLE OF WESTERN MONOPOLIES

Moscow FOREIGN TRADE in English No 1, Jan 84 pp 21-24

[Article by Vladimir Ivanenko, executive secretary of the Soviet Part of the Soviet-Iranian Standing Commission for Economic Cooperation: "Twenty Years of USSR-Iran Economic and Technical Cooperation"]

[Text] Twenty years have passed since the signing of the first agreement between the USSR and Iran on economic and technical cooperation which laid a foundation for the two countries' wide economic ties in major spheres.

Our country has always strived to build our economic relations with Iran on principles of good-neighbourliness, mutual benefit and balanced settlements. The twenty-year history of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries witnesses this.

The first Soviet-Iranian agreement envisaged cooperation in constructing two dams with a hydroelectric power station on the Araks border river, a sturgeon fish farm on the river Sefid Rud for replenishing sturgeon stock in the Caspian Sea and 11 grain elevators.

A number of other agreements were concluded after this one which specified the understanding reached between the governments of the

USSR and Iran on cooperation in building in Iran a great number of industrial and other projects of paramount importance for strengthening the country's economic potential.

In fact a mere enumeration of projects and work on which the USSR and Iran cooperate (about 160, out of which more than 100 have been put into operation or completed) show the significance they have for consolidating Iran's national economy, assuring employment of the population, developing vitally important economic sectors and the export potential and training of the country's specialists, etc.

Among these projects are: the Isfahan iron-and-steel plant (capacity 550,000 tons of steel per year) Iran's only ferrous metallurgy enterprise with a full production cycle; the steel works' raw material base comprising the Chogart iron ore mine, a number of coal mines

and coal dressing factories; the Arak machine building works (capacity 25,000 tons of products per year); water engineering construction on the Araks border river; 23 educational centres with 6,500 places for training specialists in various trades; 48 grain elevators (total capacity over one million tons of grain) and also two large thermal power stations being built now in Ahwaz (power rating 1,260,000 kW) and in Isfahan (800,000 kW).

The Soviet Union rendered and renders Iran assistance in constructing these projects by delivering modern complete equipment, machinery and materials as well as by sending Soviet specialists to Iran. Iran also received credits on favourable terms from the Soviet Union for the construction of certain projects. An important feature of the cooperation is that Iran repays these credits not with currency as it has to do in economic dealings with the Western countries but with deliveries of Iranian goods, in particular, gas in 1970-1980 and crude oil—at the present time.

The Isfahan iron-and-steel plant with its coal and raw material base is the largest project of Soviet-Iranian economic and technical cooperation. Over scores of years Iran purchased almost all the necessary metal products from foreign countries, that is why it was its natural wish to create its own metallurgy. Repeated requests of the Iranians addressed to the Western countries' monopolies for help were

met by the latter's reluctance to lose Iran's stable metal product market. L. Erhard, ex-Chancellor of the FRG, declared in his time that he preferred to see Iran as a "country of roses and nightingales" and not as an industrial state.

The main "substantiation" of the imperialist states' negative attitude to the idea of creating Iran's national metallurgy was the fact that Iran allegedly lacked its own iron ore and coking coal needed for steel production. Numerous expeditions and "authoritative conclusions" made by foreign experts on matters of metallurgy cost the Iranian government a large sum of money, moreover, they did not bring the plans of creating national metallurgy closer to reality.

It was only the Soviet Union that responded to the neighbouring country's appeal with understanding. In January 1966 the Soviet-Iranian agreement on economic and technical cooperation was signed which envisaged Soviet organizations' technical assistance to Iran in constructing an iron-and-steel plant (capacity 500,000 to 600,000 tons of steel per year) near Isfahan, as well as a machine-building factory and a northern part of the trans-Iranian main gas pipeline from gas fields in the south of the country to the USSR-Iranian border in the Astara region.

The Isfahan iron-and-steel plant with a coal and raw material base, Iran's important industrial complex, was designed by the Soviet design institutes Gipromez,

Giprkoks, Giproruda, etc. This project was constructed with participation of the All-Union Association Tyazhpromexport which supplied it with modern metallurgical equipment and sent to Iran Soviet specialists as consulting engineers. The construction of the factory's coal supply base was carried out with Tsvetmetpromexport's technical assistance.

Despite the pessimistic prognoses made by certain specialists in Western countries concerning the lack of iron ore and coking coal deposits in Iran, Soviet geologists sent there by the All-Union Association Technoexport discovered with their Iranian colleagues large deposits of this raw material, the reserves of which will suffice for tens of years of the iron-and-steel works' operation.

Construction of the Isfahan iron-and-steel works and the necessary coal and raw material base caused not only an industrial revolution in Iran but also changed the Iranian people's ideas about other states, increased the employment figure, promoted building of new railways and automobile roads, development of housing construction, the growth of the number of skilled national specialists.

The Isfahan iron-and-steel plant was put into operation in March 1973. Thanks to the Iranian workers, who assiduously mastered metallurgical production new to them as well as the great experience of their Soviet instructors, the Isfahan

iron-and-steel plant reached its rated capacity within record time even to international standards. Already the following year, the plant began to turn out products in the volumes envisaged in the design.

Over ten years of its operation the Isfahan iron-and-steel plant produced 5.6 million tons of steel; this witnesses the high quality of Soviet metallurgical equipment installed at this project.

The iron-and-steel plant's products, primarily rolled products for civil engineering, are widely marketed in Iran thus considerably reducing Iran's currency expenditures on rolled products imported from the capitalist countries. According to officials of the Iranian national steel company the plant has already doubly repaid the investments allocated for its construction and now operates exceeding its rated capacity.

At present the construction of the second stage of the iron-and-steel plant (capacity approximately two million tons of steel per year) is close to completion. Its commissioning will more fully satisfy Iran's demands for metal products. Simultaneously the plant's coal and raw material base is being expanded.

The importance of this fact should be stressed especially as thanks to this the operation of the Isfahan iron-and-steel plant does not practically depend on the imports of raw and other materials from other countries. Soviet designers envisaged construction of repair shops within the plant assuring

that certain types of metallurgical equipment will be repaired on the site instead of applying to foreign firms for this purpose.

The Arak engineering works built with Prommashexport's technical assistance was put into operation several months earlier than the Isfahan iron-and-steel plant. This is Iran's largest factory of the heavy industry, manufacturing various products required for the Iranian industry, such as building cranes, diverse mining equipment and equipment for the Isfahan iron-and-steel plant.

Cooperation in power engineering has an important place in USSR-Iranian economic ties.

The Araks hydrosystem, constructed with Technopromexport's technical assistance on the border river Araks, irrigates not only tens of thousands of hectares of fertile lands which previously experienced water shortage but also supplies border regions in Iran and the USSR with electric power. The hydroelectric power station at the Araks hydrosystem, jointly owned by the USSR and Iran, has been operating over ten years already to both countries' benefit.

Cooperation in constructing the Hodaferin and Gyz-Galasy hydrosystems on this river is envisaged. Hydroturbines (total power 280,000 kW) will be installed at these hydroelectric power stations. Reservoirs formed by these dams will contain 2,400 million cu.m of water thanks to which additional substantial areas on both countries' river banks will be irrigated.

In the south of Iran the Ramin thermal power station (near the town of Ahwaz), largest in this region, is being constructed by Technopromexport on contract terms. First two units (capacity 315,000 kW) were put into operation and the erection of two more units is under way.

The construction of a thermal power station near Isfahan undertaken by Technopromexport (also on contract terms) is under way. After its commissioning this thermal power station will provide a large industrial district being built near Isfahan with electric energy. These projects will give impetus not only to the development of industry but will also promote employment in these regions increasing the number of industrial workers.

Soviet organizations render Iran technical assistance in developing transport. At Iran's request Soviet special dredgers periodically deepen water areas of the Iranian ports Enze'i and Noushahr on the Caspian sea.

Our countries' economic cooperation promoted the expansion of Iran's railway network. Thus, the Kerman-Isfahan railway line, later extended to Teheran, was specially built to supply the Isfahan iron-and-steel plant with coking coal and iron ore.

Taking into account the increasing amount of Soviet export and transit cargoes from Europe to Iran as well as the Iranian cargoes to Europe, Iran in late 1960s asked the Soviet government to help in elec-

trifying the railway line extending from Dzhulf on the USSR-Iran border to Tabriz.

This electric railway, the first and the only one in Iran, was built by Technostrojexport on a contract basis and in late 1982 this part of Iran's railway network was put into operation. Electrification of the railway, very complicated in its relief, considerably increased the trains' speed due to which now the goods turnover grew by one-third.

Training Iran's national specialists is another important aspect of our countries' economic cooperation.

The Western countries' monopolies, constructing in Iran mainly industrial assembly enterprises where many operations do not require skilled manpower, do not bother themselves with training Iran's nationals. On the contrary, they directly or indirectly hinder this.

Soviet organizations simultaneously with their technical aid when constructing large industrial projects in Iran have begun training national personnel—workers, technicians and engineers, all those people needed to build and operate the projects. In fact each project being built with USSR organizations' participation is a certain type of school for Iranian builders and workers. Soviet specialists' experience and help is very necessary and timely. Over 100,000 Iranian workers have been given instruction by their Soviet colleagues while building and operating projects.

With the Soviet Union's technical

assistance 13 educational centres for teaching skilled workers and technicians of 47 various trades were set up in Iran. As a rule the graduates of these educational centres construct and operate the projects of Soviet-Iranian economic and technical cooperation. The educational centres built with Soviet organizations' technical assistance (Technoexport) are well known not only in Iran but also in other countries. In particular, students from India and Pakistan received instruction at the Isfahan iron-and-steel plant's educational centre. Over the years these educational centres have taught about 23,000 Iranian technicians and skilled workers. Now the USSR is helping build another ten educational centres in Iran.

Construction of grain elevators is one traditional sphere of the two countries' cooperation. The first grain elevators were constructed in Iran with Soviet organizations' technical assistance as far back as prior to World War II. These elevators are still operating.

At present Soviet organizations participate in constructing and operating 48 grain elevators (total capacity over one million tons), more than one half of the elevator and warehouse capacities in Iran.

Among the elevators recently put into operation, constructed with Selkhozpromexport's assistance, is the Mashhad elevator (capacity 113,000 tons), the largest and most up-to-date in the Middle East. Grain elevators constructed in Iran

with this association's technical assistance assure a better keeping property of the crop.

Tsvetmetpromexport constructed in Iran a northern section of a trans-Iranian trunk gas pipeline as well as eight compressor stations along its route from Iran's southern oil fields up to the USSR-Iranian border in the Astara region. The significance of this project for development of Iran's economy cannot be overestimated.

Until recently casing-head gas extracted during oil production was burnt in torches on the spot. The Western monopolies producing oil in Iran literally threw one of the country's major natural resources to the wind. With construction of the trans-Iranian trunk gas pipeline, Iran obtained the opportunity of not only using this gas for domestic purposes and industrial needs but also to repay Soviet organizations' services for their rendering technical assistance through gas deliveries to the USSR. Between 1970 and 1980 the USSR received more than 73,000 million cu.m of gas. Iranian officials declared that the deliveries of Iran's gas to the USSR, for example, three times repaid the capital investments needed for construction of the Isfahan iron-and-steel plant with its coal and raw material base.

It should be noted that the Soviet Union invariably adheres to the principle of mutual benefit in economic relations with its southern neighbour. Our country has never and nowhere, including Iran,

searched or is searching for superprofits. The USSR has never stipulated any political claims on its economic assistance to Iran. All enterprises constructed in Iran with Soviet organizations' participation are the property of the Iranian people and operate for its benefit.

The Soviet-Iranian Standing Commission for Economic Cooperation, set up in June 1968, is an important and efficient instrument fulfilling the tasks for strengthening and developing our countries' trade and economic relations. Nine meetings of the Commission have already been held which discussed the problems of the present state and trends of development of trade and economic relations between the USSR and Iran, considered specific matters of cooperation in constructing and operating certain projects being built or constructed in Iran with the Soviet Union's technical assistance and elaborated relevant recommendations for raising their economic efficiency.

There is a provision in the Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1981-1985 and for the Period Ending in 1990 which reads: "To develop on a long-term and equal basis, mutually beneficial exchange of goods and the all-round economic, scientific, technical and other ties of the Soviet Union with developing countries, to continue rendering these countries economic and technical assistance in the construction of industrial enterprises and power, agricultural and other

projects conducive to strengthening their economic and political independence." The above fully applies to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Soviet Union and Iran have good prospects for furthering their all-round cooperation, primarily in the economic sphere. Mutual respect for the sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and mutual benefit—such are the principles guiding the Soviet government in its foreign economic relations and it constantly pursues them in order to assist realization of these favourable prospects.

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USSR-WORLD TRADE

SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN 1984 TRADE FAIRS LISTED

Moscow FOREIGN TRADE in English No 1, Jan 84 p 40

[Text] In 1984 the Soviet Union will take part in the following exhibitions and fairs held abroad:

International Exhibition of Medical Equipment in Peking (China)	February 27 - March 7	International Fair in Leipzig (GDR)	September 2 - 8
International Fair in Leipzig (GDR)	March 11 - 17	International Fair in Saloniki (Greece)	September 2 - 16
International Fair in Hannover (FRG)	April 4 - 11	International Fair in Strasbourg (France)	September 6 - 17
International Fair of Consumer Goods in Brno (Czechoslovakia)	April 11 - 17	International Fair in Zagreb (Yugoslavia)	September 11 - 19
International Fair of Consumer Goods in Plovdiv (Bulgaria)	May 7 - 13	International Machine-Building Fair in Brno (Czechoslovakia)	September 12 - 19
International Fair in Lisbon (Portugal)	May 9 - 13	International Fair of Consumer Goods in Budapest (Hungary)	September 14 - 24
International Technical Fair in Budapest (Hungary)	May 23 - 31	International Technical Fair in Plovdiv (Bulgaria)	September 24 - October 1
International Fair in Nicosia (Cyprus)	May 26 - June 10	International Fair in Teheran (Iran)	September
International Fair in Barcelona (Spain)	June 2 - 10	International Fair in Bucharest (Romania)	October 11 - 18
International Fair in Poznan (Poland)	June 10 - 17	International Fair in Baghdad (Iraq)	October 1 - 15
USSR National Exhibition in Oslo (Norway)	June 12 - 24	CMEA member-countries' exhibition in Mexico City (Mexico)	November 9 - 18
International Chemical Fair, Inheba, in Bratislava (Czechoslovakia)	June 23 - 29	International Fair in New Delhi (India)	November
International Fair in Damascus (Syria)	July 26 - August 14	International Fair in Luanda (Angola)	November
International Fair in Izmir (Turkey)	August 20 - September 10		
International Fair in Maputo (Mozambique)	August - September		

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BRIEFS

HYDRAULIC HOISTS JOINTLY PRODUCED--In accordance with an agreement on cooperated production the All-Union Association Licensintorg and the Finnish firm, Telinekeskus OY, signed contracts on the mutual deliveries of components and units for the Bronto 330 hydraulic hoist (lifting height 32 metres). The RSFSR Ministry of Housing and Municipal Economy is the Finnish firm's partner in the joint production of these hoists in the Soviet Union. The Abakan mechanical engineering works will be the manufacturer in the USSR. It has started assembling the hoists from components and units supplied by Telinekeskus OY. In 1983 the factory supplied Soviet consumers with five hydraulic hoists. Taking into account the sides' interest in developing cooperated production the RSFSR Ministry of Housing and Municipal Economy and the Finnish firm are planning to expand shipments of components and units in three coming years (1984-1987). [Text] [Moscow FOREIGN TRADE in English No 1, Jan 84 p 25] [COPYRIGHT: "Vneshnyaya trgovlya" 1984. English translation, "Foreign Trade", 1984]

SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA--Soviet-Syrian economic relations are successfully going ahead, with economic and technical cooperation figuring prominently in them. With Soviet technical assistance Syria has put up 37 different economic projects, and about 30 enterprises more are under construction and to be built. The commissioning of the Damascus-Homs railway last March is an important result of this cooperation. Three years of joint labour by Soviet and Syrian engineers, technicians and workers in difficult conditions resulted in the laying of 208 kilometres of railway with dozens of bridges and other complex structures. The railway opening ceremony became a real festival of Soviet-Syrian friendship. Taking the floor, the Syrian President, Hafiz al-Assad thanked Soviet specialists for their contribution to strengthening and developing Syrian economy. Soviet and Syrian builders and railwaymen, he said, made a great contribution to strengthening friendship and mutually advantageous cooperation between the two states and peoples. [Text] [Moscow FOREIGN TRADE in English No 1, Jan 84 p 9] [COPYRIGHT: "Vneshnyaya trgovlya" 1984. English translation, "Foreign Trade", 1984]

USSR-IRAQ COMMISSION MEETING--Last June a regular meeting of the Soviet-Iraq Standing Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held in Moscow. The meeting considered questions connected with the implementation of agreements on cooperation in building and running a number of projects and in developing trade between the USSR and Iraq. The Commission

studied prospects of developing economic and technical cooperation in power generation, the oil industry, agriculture, irrigation and water economy projects construction, and training Iraqi national specialists. The minutes of the meeting were signed by Ya. P. Ryabov, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and S. Yassin, Minister for Industry and Mineral Resources of the Iraqi Republic. [Text] [Moscow FOREIGN TRADE in English No 1, Jan 84 p 9] [COPYRIGHT: "Vneshnyaya trgovlya" 1984 English translation, "Foreign Trade", 1984]

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USSR-CEMA TRADE

SUMMARIES OF 1984 CEMA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS PRESENTED

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 3, Jan 84 p 20

[Article: "Clear Prospects: The 1984 Plans for the CEMA Member Countries"]

[Text] The following materials were prepared on the basis of publications in the periodical press in the CEMA member countries by Candidate of Economic Sciences V. V. Andreyev (International Institute of the Economic Problems of the Worldwide Socialist System).

The typical feature of the planned assignments for 1984 that have been defined by the highest agencies in the CEMA member countries lies in the fact that they reinforce the positive tendencies of the past year, which manifested themselves in the development of the economy, and they orient one toward the intensification of social production and the increase in its effectiveness.

Bulgaria

On the basis of the complete intensification of the national economy as a result of the consistent introduction of modern scientific-technical achievements, and, primarily, advanced technological schemes, as well as the increase in the quality of output, the 1984 national-economic plan stipulates an increase in national income by 3.8 percent, and the productivity of social labor by 4 percent. The volume of industrial output in comparable prices will increase by 5 percent, and agriculture, by 3.1 percent.

Special attention is being devoted to the complete introduction of the latest achievements of science and technical progress, new light-weight structural elements, and highly productive machines and equipment, and to the most efficient use of the energy and raw-material resources and production capacities.

The country's material-technical potential will become stronger. The volume of capital investments in 1984 will reach almost 8.2 billion levs.

In 1984 foreign-trade turnover will increase by 8.1 percent, as compared with last year.

The public's per-capita real income will increase by 2.5 percent; social consumption funds, by 3.3 percent; and retail commodity turnover, by 4.2 percent.

Hungary

The planned increase in national income and industrial production is 1.5-2.0 percent.

In the directive documents it is stated that the basis for the further development of the Hungarian economy is the increase in the effectiveness of production; the improvement of its structure and the quality of the articles being produced; and the reduction of the expenditures per unit of output.

In industry, the work of economizing energy and materials will be continued. The fulfillment of the planned measures will make it possible to reduce the expenditure of materials. The growth rates in machine-building will exceed the growth rates for industry as a whole. Special attention will be devoted to the production of machine-building output for export.

In vegetable husbandry it is planned to achieve a level of production that is close to the 1982 level, and in animal husbandry to surpass it. It is planned to harvest grain crops in the total amount of no less than 15 million tons. That will constitute 1.4 tons per capita of population. This is one of the highest indicators in the world.

The capital investments in the socialist sector are planned in the volume of 180-183 billion forints. The appropriations for the coal, petroleum, and gas industry will increase, as compared with 1983.

The population's monetary income (including social payments) will increase by almost 8 percent. The level of retail prices will rise by 7-8 percent. The increase in wages is being tied in more closely with the increase in labor productivity, its effectiveness, and quality.

It is planned to build 70,000-74,000 apartments with the involvement of the public's monetary means, credit, and state funds.

Vietnam

It is planned to increase the volume of agricultural production by 7 percent.

The overall production of foodstuffs, in rice equivalent, will be increased, according to plan, by one million tons -- to 18 million tons (including 15.7 million tons of unhulled rice and 2.3 million tons of other products of secondary importance). State procurements of foodstuffs will constitute 4.3 million tons.

It is planned to increase the number of head of livestock by 8 percent, including water buffaloes and cows by 5 percent.

The production of sugar cane will be increased by 35 percent.

The volume of industrial production, including small-scale and handicraft enterprises, will increase by 9.5 percent. Labor productivity per worker in industry will be increased by 5 percent. Production costs in the state sector will be reduced by 3.7 percent.

The production of electrical energy will increase by 12 percent; cement, 83; and textile articles, by 23 percent.

The further development of the foreign-economic ties between Vietnam and the countries in the socialist community is planned. The overall volume of the republic's export will increase by 22 percent, as compared with 1983.

Housing construction is expanding. More than 250,000 square meters of housing will be built.

East Germany

As compared with last year, the national income will increase by 4.4 percent, and the volume of industrial production, by 4.2 percent.

The outstripping rates of development will be retained in the branches that determine the acceleration of scientific-technical progress. For example the output of the electrical-engineering and electronic industry will increase by 8.8 percent; machine-tool-building and cutting-tool-building industry, by 6.5 percent.

In agriculture it is planned to increase the output of vegetable husbandry by 8.4 percent, and the production of meat, in slaughtered weight, by 5.1 percent. It is planned to harvest 10.5 million tons of grain crops, with an average of 40.5 quintals per hectare.

Capital investments in the national economy will constitute 49 billion marks, including 26.6 billion in industry. They will be channeled primarily into the development of the fuel-and-energy and raw-materials management; the introduction of modern technological schemes; the production of high-quality articles for export; and the modernization of the fixed production assets.

East Germany's foreign-trade turnover during the year will increase by 5 percent. Export to the Soviet Union will increase by 7.7 percent.

There will be a noticeable increase in the public's monetary income and commodity funds. More than 197,000 apartments will be built or undergo major repair.

Cuba

The single plan for socioeconomic development in 1984, which was approved by a session of the National Assembly of the People's Authority, stipulates an increase in national income by 5.5-6 percent. Labor productivity will rise by 2.5-3 percent, thus making it possible to obtain more than half the increase in output.

It is planned to carry out measures to save material resources. For example, the quotas for fuel consumption will drop by 3-5 percent. The process of improving the branch structure of industry and agriculture will be continued.

The production of unrefined sugar will increase by more than 10 percent. The production of tobacco and citrus crops will increase. The production of refined sugar will triple.

The production of building materials will increase by 13 percent. The production of spare parts, batteries, tires, tubes, and other commodities will increase.

An increasing role in the development of the economy will be played by foreign trade. The export of commodities will increase by 10 percent, and import by 8 percent.

The public's monetary income will increase, as will the production of consumer goods. Thirty-five thousand apartments will be built; and the process of strengthening and expanding the material base of public education and public health will be continued. Appropriations for the needs of education will increase by 5.1 percent; and for the needs of public health, by 14.3 percent.

Mongolia

It is planned to increase the volume of national income by 6 percent. Labor productivity will be increased by 4.4 percent, and this will guarantee 68 percent of the increase in the national income to be produced.

The production of industrial output will increase by 7.8 percent. It is planned to have higher growth rates for the production of output in the energy, fuel, wood-processing, and food industry, and the building-materials industry.

It is planned to increase the production of agricultural output by 9 percent. A decisive role in increasing agricultural production is played by animal husbandry, the gross output of which will increase by 16.1 percent.

It is planned to increase the gross output of agriculture by 22 percent as compared with the average annual volume in 1981-1983 and to increase it to 465 million tugriks. In the year that has begun, more than 60,000 hectares of virgin land will be assimilated. It is planned to apply mineral fertilizers on 380,000 hectares of sown areas.

The country is channeling 684 million tugriks of capital investments into the further reinforcement of the material-technical base of agriculture.

Foreign-trade turnover will increase by 5.1 percent, including export by 5.3 percent.

In the new year, approximately 160,000 square meters of housing will be activated.

Poland

In the governmental draft of the central plan for 1984, it is planned to increase the national income by 3.5 percent, industrial production by 4.5-5.5 percent, and agricultural production by 1.4-1.8 percent.

Attention will be devoted to increasing the effectiveness of production and the quality of output, and to the reorganization of industrial output with a consideration of the needs of agriculture, the domestic market, and export. Domestic resources will be used more broadly in providing the economy with raw and other materials.

It is planned to carry out measures that hinder negative processes in the national economy. In particular, funds are being invested in the struggle to correct the tendency to decrease in the production of output in animal husbandry.

In the area of foreign trade it is planned to expand Poland's participation in the international division of labor, chiefly by developing trade and cooperation with the socialist countries, and primarily the Soviet Union. Steps will be carried out to decrease Poland's dependence upon shipments of raw and other materials and technology from the capitalist countries.

It is planned to build 190,000-200,000 apartments.

Romania

It is planned to increase the gross national product by 4.6 percent. The commercial industrial output, in terms of value, will increase by 6.7 percent.

The production of electrical energy will reach 77 billion kilowatt-hours. Coal production will constitute 61.7 million tons, and petroleum, 13 million tons.

The plan provides for the preferential use of domestic resources and the limitation of import to the strictly necessary limits; the reduction of material expenses; and the efficient use of raw-material and energy resources.

The production of individual types of agricultural output, with the weather conditions remaining normal, is supposed to achieve the following: grain-legume crops, 29 million tons; sugar beets, 10.6 million tons; fruits -- 2.7 million tons. The production of meat, in slaughtered weight, will constitute 2.2 million tons.

The volume of capital investments in the national economy will reach 252 billion lei.

It is planned to increase the foreign-trade turnover by 13.8 percent.

The overall volume of retail sale of commodities will increase by 3 percent; the volume of services to the public, by 12.7 percent. One hundred fifty thousand apartments will be activated.

Czechoslovakia

The 1984 plan stipulates an increase in national income by 3 percent. Labor productivity will increase by 2.6 percent, resulting in 86 percent of the increase in national income.

The volume of industrial output will be increase by 2.9 percent. The most rapid rates of development will occur in machine-building (6.4 percent) and electrical engineering (10.5 percent), with the retention of the previous volume of production in the energy-intensive and materials-intensive branches.

In the area of agriculture it is planned to achieve gradually a situation of self-support with regard to grain and there has been a re-assertion of the need for the outstripping rates of development of vegetable husbandry, as compared with animal husbandry. It is planned to produce 11 million tons of grain and 7.8 million tons of sugar beets.

The structural redistribution of investments will continue. The appropriations in the fuel and energy base and the agroindustrial complex have been increased, as have the appropriations for the modernization and renovation of equipment in machine-building.

The foreign-trade turnover between Czechoslovakia and the socialist countries will increase by 9 percent, including 12 percent with the Soviet Union.

The public's monetary income will increase by 1.6 percent, and the payments and benefits from the social consumption funds will also increase.

It is planned to build 90,000 apartments. This will make it possible to improve the living conditions for 300,000 persons.

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USSR-CEMA TRADE

GOALS OF CEMA COORDINATED INTEGRATION PLAN LISTED

Moscow EKONOMICHESKOYE SOTRUDNICHESTVO STRAN-CHLENOV SEV in Russian No 11, Nov 83 (signed to press 11 Nov 83) pp 32-35

[Article by Bratislav Yechminek, CEMA Secretariat: "In Accordance with the Coordinated Plan"]

[Text] The Coordinated Plan for Multilateral Integration Measures for 1981-1985 was approved at the 35th meeting of the CEMA Session in July 1981. This is the second plan for concerted production, scientific and technical action in the history of the community of fraternal countries. It was drawn up with the aid of the experience accumulated during the compilation of the first plan, for 1976-1980.

As we know, the primary objective of the CEMA countries is the transition to the intensive form of economic development. This is precisely the purpose of the coordinated plan for 1981-1985. It envisages a complex of measures to supply the fraternal countries with energy, fuel and raw materials, raise the technical standards of socialist production and accelerate the growth and heighten the efficiency of the national economies of countries that inherited economic underdevelopment.

As we know, a Coordinated Plan for Multilateral Integration Measures (SPMIM) was compiled at the same time that national economic plans for 1981-1985 were coordinated. The necessary material, financial and labor resources were allocated for its fulfillment in the five-year and annual plans of each CEMA country.

Integration Projects

One of the most important sections of the coordinated plan concerns the joint construction of large industrial facilities and additional capacities with the resources of interested countries.

These projects include the Khmel'nitskaya AES, which is being built in the USSR with the participation of Hungary, Poland and the CSSR. Its projected

capacity is 4 million kilowatts. When it has been reached, the USSR will begin to export 2.4 billion kilowatt-hours of electrical power a year to Hungary, 3.6 billion to the CSSR and 6 billion to Poland.

The coordinated plan also stipulates the obligations of other countries. They will supply the Soviet Union with machines, equipment, metal structures, construction materials and so forth.

Last year the plan for capital investments was fulfilled by 111.7 percent. The construction and installation groundwork for the AES was performed and several elements of the infrastructure were erected. Since the beginning of the project, 48 bulldozers, 50 trailers and 41,200 tons of rolled ferrous metal products have been delivered from Poland, 180 cement mixers, 310 dump trucks, 200 tow-trucks, 37,000 tons of rolled metal and steel pipe and some consumer goods have come from the CSSR, and metal structures, construction materials and other goods worth 29 million rubles have been delivered from Hungary.

The main purpose of the coordinated and jointly conducted long-range policy in power engineering is the maximum reinforcement of the material and technical base of interested CEMA countries and the resolution of one of the most complex problems of the present day--the fuel and energy problem.

The coordinated plan also stipulates the specific obligations of countries--Hungary, the GDR, Poland, the USSR and the CSSR--in another integration project: a 750-kilowatt power line from the Khmel'nitskaya AES (USSR) to Rzeszow (Poland). Its completion will heighten the reliability of contacts between the power systems of participating countries and will allow for the increased export of electrical power to interested countries from 1984 on. Construction and installation workers are stepping up operations and striving to complete the line on schedule.

Another important project envisaged in the SPMIM for 1981-1985 is the Mozyr plant for the production of nutrients from highly refined petroleum paraffins. It has a projected output of 300,000 tons a year. Around 130,000 tons will be shipped to the GDR, Cuba, Poland and the CSSR in proportion to their participation in the project.

The project should be completed soon. Capacities already exist for the export of negotiated quantities of products to interested CEMA countries in 1984.

These countries sent various goods to the USSR for the construction of the plant. For example, the Soviet Union received two stripping stations and 448 kilometers of cable of various types from the GDR; around 30,000 tons of rolled ferrous metal products and 9,000 tons of steel pipe from Poland; steel pipe, rolled ferrous metal products and consumer goods from the CSSR.

Electronics and Nuclear Power Engineering

The section of the coordinated plan pertaining to the specialization and cooperation of production on a multilateral basis is particularly significant

under present conditions. The section includes measures aimed at the production of items meeting the highest world standards. The unification of the material, financial and labor resources of the fraternal countries is envisaged for this purpose.

The effectiveness of this is illustrated by the following examples.

As we know, the CEMA countries began to cooperate in computer engineering in 1969. The mass production of all of the models of the unified "Series-1" and "Series-2" systems has been organized since that time. Now the CEMA countries are working on "Series-3" machines. Models of micro- and mini-computers have been designed and are being produced.

An important step was taken in the development of interaction in this sphere in July 1980. This was a new agreement on multilateral international specialization, cooperation and reciprocal deliveries by Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, the Republic of Cuba, Poland, Romania, the USSR and the CSSR.

Within the framework of this agreement, which was included in the coordinated plan, a great deal of work is being performed. The latest computer equipment is being designed and incorporated. The use of computers is being facilitated with developed programs, instruments and organizational equipment. Qualitative changes are also being made in the structure of the computer supply. The high technical level of special items--finished machines and attachments--is acquiring particular significance. Reciprocal deliveries between countries party to the agreement will be approximately twice as great as during the last 5 years.

Today the fraternal countries are also uniting their efforts in the development of highly productive machines and equipment for power stations and metallurgical plants, metal-cutting tools, forging and pressing equipment, materials handling equipment, road and road construction equipment, bearings and so forth.

The inclusion of an agreement on multilateral specialization and cooperation in the production of equipment for nuclear power plants in the SPMIM for 1981-1985 will be of the greatest value in the efforts to develop the power engineering base of the socialist countries. As we know, cooperation in this area has primarily taken the form of reciprocal deliveries of components and spare parts on dates specified by interested countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Poland, Romania, the USSR, the CSSR and Yugoslavia) and, if necessary, the installation of specialized equipment or the supervision of its installation.

Power machine building is being reorganized considerably in the European CEMA countries and Yugoslavia for the purpose of complying with this agreement, and new large plants and shops are being opened in some countries for the manufacture of complex equipment.

As a result of all this, participating countries have been able to master the production of all of the specialized technological equipment required for the

AES with the VVER-440 type of reactor. They include complete reactor assemblies, stainless steel circulation mains and gates, pressure capacitors, steam heater-separators, etc.

They are working on the development or modernization of auxiliary equipment and improving the ventilation system and special water treatment facilities. Filters with an oil-removing device for the repurification of the stripping distiller and scrubbers with a new bubbling attachment are being put in production.

Machine Building and Chemicals

Another important sphere of cooperation is also included in the coordinated plan--the production and delivery of oilfield equipment, drilling equipment and oil and gas production equipment.

During the first 2 years of the current 5-year period, for example, Romania supplied interested CEMA countries with 14 complete assemblies for the deep drilling of oil and gas wells, 36 crane assemblies, 35 special pumps, 677 sets of blowout prevention equipment, 226 manual and hydraulic preventers, etc. The deliveries are made in accordance with the coordinated plan.

Another measure envisaged in the SPMIM is also being carried out successfully--specialization and cooperation in the production of the technical equipment for the Unified Container Transport System (YeKTS). The plan for the shipment of trailers from the GDR and Poland was completely fulfilled in 1981 and 1982. The opening of nine international container lines and 157 container terminals contributed to the further development of the YeKTS.

Interaction in production specialization and cooperation is also being developed in the countries belonging to the Organization for Cooperation in the Bearing Industry. During the period in question the countries exported 408 million rubles' worth of these products to one another.

In addition to multilateral efforts, bilateral cooperation is growing stronger with each year. It plays a special role in subbranches of machine building. One of these is the automobile industry. The SPMIM for 1981-1985 attests to this. It stipulates international specialization and cooperation in the production of the "Lada" passenger car. In line with these commitments, Bulgaria, for example, sent the Soviet Union 826 assembled AC generators, 800,000 starters, 600,000 storage batteries in a polypropylene monoblock and other equipment in 1981 and 1982; the CSSR sent 750,000 headlights and so forth. In exchange for these deliveries of specialized items, the USSR exported around 102,000 finished vehicles to the CEMA countries concerned.

Several measures in the chemical industry were also included in the coordinated plan. In particular, in accordance with a general agreement, capacities are to be enlarged for the manufacture of power-intensive products in the USSR and less power-intensive products in other CEMA countries with subsequent exchange on an equitable basis. In connection with this, the Soviet Union is producing more ammonia, methanol, polyethylene, isoprene rubber, etc. The concerned

CEMA countries are producing more polyurethanes, synthetic dyes, epoxy resins, pesticides, etc.

Progress in the fulfillment of this agreement is attested to by the following data. In 1981 and 1982, for example, the USSR supplied participating countries with 28,500 tons of high-pressure polyethylene, 314,000 tons of potassium fertilizers, 300,000 tons of nitrogen fertilizers, etc. In turn, these countries sent the Soviet Union 89,000 tons of pesticides, 10,500 tons of dyes, etc.

This cooperation has allowed the European CEMA countries and the Republic of Cuba to conserve significant quantities of energy and to satisfy their needs for the major chemical products.

Agriculture

The coordinated plan also envisages a group of measures for the development of such a major sector as agriculture. They are intended to reinforce its material and technical base and to achieve the growth of agricultural production on an industrial basis.

This is precisely the purpose of the division of labor among countries in the manufacture of agricultural machines and equipment. The system corresponds to traditions and accumulated experience and reflects the desire of these countries to achieve the fuller satisfaction of national food requirements through concerted effort.

We will illustrate the achievements in agricultural machine building with some data from the many SPMIM indicators for 1981-1985.

Bulgaria's "field," for example, is the T-54 (or T-70 B) tractor for the cultivation of grape plantations. These are produced with a view to Bulgaria's own needs and the requirements of its CEMA partners. To date, Bulgaria has supplied them with more than 4,000 such tractors, or around 30 percent of the total exports envisaged in the coordinated plan.

Hungary's "specialty" is machinery for the harvesting of green peas, beans and cucumbers. Deliveries of these machines in 1981 and 1982 were made in accordance with bilateral trade agreements.

Exports from the GDR to interested CEMA countries during this time amounted to more than 3,800 combines of various capacities, over 7,500 grain cleaners and machines for the secondary cleaning of seeds, around 1,340 self-propelled all-purpose loaders, etc.

Poland also fulfilled its SPMIM obligations successfully. During the first 2 years of the 5-year period its partners received just under 1,600 mobile feed dispensers, around 3,700 machines for the application of solid and liquid fertilizers and other equipment.

Romania specializes in the production of various agricultural machines and delivered around 19,900 corn sowers of various types and 1,800 self-propelled all-purpose loaders to other CEMA countries in 1981 and 1982.

Exports from the Soviet Union are always made on schedule. The USSR supplied the CEMA countries concerned with around 42,500 tractors of various types, 1,000 self-propelled six-row corn harvesters, 450 Kolos grain combines, etc.

The CSSR produces machines for the cultivation of hops with a view to its partners' needs. Besides this, in accordance with the SPMIM it sent them around 3,800 tractors of various types and around 2,000 crane and reversible all-purpose loaders.

Equalization of Levels

The accelerated growth of the national economies of the SRV, Cuba and Mongolia and the enhancement of their efficiency are playing an important role in the gradual convergence and equalization of levels of economic development in the CEMA countries. This is why the SPMIM for 1981-1985 includes multilateral integration measures aimed at the attainment of these objectives.

One envisages more intensive geological prospecting in the SRV. Concerned CEMA countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, the USSR and the CSSR) have signed multilateral general and bilateral agreements for this purpose and have begun working on joint projects.

Capacities for the production of nickel, geological prospecting, the comprehensive development of the production and industrial processing of citrus fruit, the comprehensive development of sugar production and other measures have been planned for the Republic of Cuba.

Report data for 1981 and 1982 indicate that lead-zinc, copper and copper-molybdenum mineralization, traces of chrome iron ore and phosphoritic ore were discovered during geological surveys in the Republic of Cuba.

Several important facilities are being built in various national economic sectors within the framework of this cooperation. Some will ensure the steady operation of existing nickel enterprises, including the plant in Punta Gorda with an output of 30,000 tons a year. The machine shop in Santa Clara, which produces pumps, centrifuges, compressors, mills for sugar refineries and other equipment, is being enlarged.

The measures included in the SPMIM for 1981-1985 to accelerate the development of the Mongolian national economy and heighten its efficiency are primarily aimed at the intensification of geological prospecting and the development of virgin lands.

The international geological expedition in the MPR warrants special discussion. During the current 5 years it will continue its work in the North Kerulen and South Gobi regions. New fields with projected copper deposits totaling around 100,000 tons were discovered in the past 2 years. Several other ore fields and deposits have been discovered. A great deal of work has been performed on a bilateral basis.

Much has also been done to establish grain and fodder farms on virgin lands in the northern Gobi and near Halhin-Gol River. The first of these--with an

irrigation system covering 6,000 hectares--has already been established in cooperation with Hungary, and sections of others are already operating. In all, 10 specialized fodder farms, 20 fodder enterprises and shops and dozens of mechanized mowing brigades and links began operating in the MPR in recent years. This has doubled hay procurements, increased mixed feed procurement sevenfold, etc.

Science and Technology

The section of the coordinated plan pertaining to the joint resolution of cardinal scientific and technical problems is particularly significant today.

Its scales can be judged from the fact that 28 agreements on research projects were concluded in 1982 in connection with measures stipulated in this section of the plan. The work on around 70 projects of an intermediate nature has been completed. Technology has been developed for the derivation of thin-film solar elements, cryoturbogenerators of 5-20 megawatts have been tested, etc.

Engineers and designers in the CEMA countries are now perfecting tested hinged robots in accordance with the general agreement on the development and extensive use of microprocessor equipment in the national economy and on the organization of the specialized and cooperative production of industrial robots.

A great deal of work is being performed on the national level. In 1982, for example, the GDR, USSR and CSSR were quite successful in the use of "intelligent machines" in ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, in the production of refractory materials and in other fields.

Technical specifications and basic requirements for various types of industrial robots have been drawn up by the 12 CEMA sectorial standing commissions and Interelektro. On the basis of these, the CEMA Committee for Scientific and Technical Cooperation prepared master documents and drew up the initial list of finished items and their standardized parts and components.

IIB Credit

Something new in the coordinated plan for 1981-1985 is the special section pertaining to the use of International Investment Bank credit.

Summing up the results of the past 2 years, it is indicative that Hungary, for example, received 35.5 million transferable rubles in credit for the remodeling and enlargement of production units in the machine-building infrastructure, the establishment of capacities for AES equipment manufacture and the modernization and electrification of railway lines.

Funds for remodeling and enlargement were also issued to the Vorschritt-Landmaschinen Combine (Neustadt), the 7 Oktober Machine Tool Combine (Berlin), enterprises for the production of self-propelled agricultural machines, separators and purification equipment and some other plants in the GDR. The Republic of Cuba and the CSSR also received IIB credit totaling around 20 million transferable rubles for new construction projects.

The completion of integration projects, encompassing the production, scientific, technical and foreign economic relations of the CEMA countries, will contribute to the economic growth of each individual country, increase the economic strength of the entire socialist community and consolidate its influence in the world arena.

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USSR-CEMA TRADE

CUBAN DEVELOPMENT, SOVIET COOPERATION NOTED AT 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 1, Jan 84 p 21

[Article by Yu. Tanin entitled: "Cuba: 25 Years of Building"]

[Text] The first day of 1959 has forever entered the history of Cuba and all people's liberation movements as the day of victory for the revolution which led to the creation of the first revolutionary state in the Western Hemisphere. For a quarter of a century the workers on the Island of Freedom, led by the Cuban Communist Party, have been transforming their Motherland from a backward, lawless appendage of the largest imperialist power into an independent and proud country which, in cooperation with the other socialist countries, is confidently going on to the heights of social and economic progress.

The Cuban people are meeting their present holiday in an environment of political and working progress, putting into practice the decisions of the First (1975) and Second (1980) Cuban Communist Party Congresses.

Socialist construction on the Island of Freedom is taking place in complicated and difficult circumstances. A quarter of a century of revolutionary Cuba's existence is, in essence, a quarter of a century of an unceasing brave struggle against the attempts of world reaction, headed by the United States, to force the Cuban people to return to earlier days.

However, the selfless labor of the Cuban people, the formation and development of real equal rights and fraternal relationships with socialist countries and the support of mutually advantageous economic ties with the governments of other socialist systems allowed them to overcome the most negative consequences of the imperialist blockade and attain substantive successes in the development of a national economy.

In the years of the people's government, more than 1,100 industrial enterprises and new industrial fields have sprung up.

Before the revolution, for example, engineering and metallurgy in the country were conducted in 40 enterprises, and the majority of them were light industry, with only seven of the enterprises employing more than 100 workers. Today in these spheres more than 118,000 people work at modern machines and

equipment, producing dozens of times more products than were marketed a quarter of a century ago.

Thus the production of engineering and metal working products has increased from 29 million pesos in 1958 to almost 900 million pesos in 1982. Steel smelting increased in this same period from 24 thousand tons to 301 thousand tons per year. The annual production of one of the major export goods, nickel-cobalt concentrates was raised more than threefold, from 12.5 thousand to 41 thousand tons. By the end of the present ten-year plan, after two new nickel enterprises are put into operation, the country will increase production of such products to roughly 1,000 tons.

The fuel-energy base is confidently expanding. Electro-energy output from 1958 to 1982 rose from 2.55 to 11.02 billion kilowatt hours per year. The yield of oil production rose from 0.4 to 6.6 million tons annually.

The successes in the spheres which provide a range of construction sites on the Island of Freedom are indisputable. Cement output rose sevenfold and approaches 6 million tons per year. The network of roads increased almost threefold and has now reached 34 thousand kilometers.

For The Workers

The Cuban Revolution which from its opening days attacked illiteracy and sickness is demonstrating with each year its real humane character and is directing its creative energy to even more fully supplying the needs of the workers. Socialist industrialization, which assures the potential growth of light industry, wide mechanization and increased productivity in agriculture and expanded residential and cultural construction, was directed at fulfilling precisely these needs.

In particular, during the years of the people's power, light industrial products doubled. In the 70's alone, the Ministry of Construction erected 185,000 new apartments, 1,700 educational institutions and 150 health facilities.

Attention is constantly being paid to improving the workers' supply.

In comparison with the pre-revolutionary period, mechanizing the agricultural industry has risen immeasurably. For example, whereas in 1958 9,000 tractors were in use, by 1982 the tractor fleet rose to 80,000. Now half the sugar crop is gathered using combines. Loading of sugar cane is almost totally mechanized. Many other processes which earlier were done by hand are now mechanized. Native production of mineral fertilizer for the agrarian sector increased by a factor of 6.6 to 1.3 million tons annually. Irrigation and land drainage operations have been broadly implemented.

Along with the development of the traditional products which assure the production of sugar, other spheres of plant-growing and also livestock, both of which are improving the quality of the dietary regimen of Cuban workers, are gathering force.

Thus, after 1958 rice development more than doubled and in 1982 reached 520 thousand tons. The production of vegetables increased by approximately the same degree. The citrus harvest increased sevenfold and in 1982 reached 195 thousand tons versus a pre-revolutionary maximum annual yield of 22 thousand tons.

Since it is an island, the Republic of Cuba cannot develop vitally without a powerful merchant fleet and civilian airline industry. In the quarter of a century the tonnage-capacity of Cuban ocean and sea vessels increased by almost a factor of 20 and exceeded one million tons. Air passenger turnover increased sevenfold and now has 43 international routes.

As with any dynamically increasing economy, the Cuban economy has several unresolved problems and difficulties. But not only can they be resolved, they have nothing in common with the incurable problems and flaws of even the most developed capitalist society. For example, in the United States the number of fully out of work individuals alone topped 10 million people and tens of millions of working people in the United States have no confidence in their tomorrow.

In Cuba, besides the destruction of all forms of exploitation, unemployment has been eliminated forever and the crises that periodically shake the capitalist world are over. For the past ten years, from 1972 to 1982, the gross national product more than doubled.

Such a tempo of growth to some degree was provided by Cuba's ever greater participation in the process of socialist economic integration and by expanding cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other member countries of SEV [Council for Mutual Economic Aid].

The Effectiveness of Internationalism

Approximately 170 enterprises and objects in key fields of the national economy were built in the Republic of Cuba with direct assistance from the USSR. In particular, more than 900 thousand kilowatts of electrical power, about 44 percent of the country's potential, were put into operation. Also, more than a thousand kilometers of electro-transmission lines, sub-stations and zone dispatcher points were built. Cooperation in this field is continuing. In the Havana area a TES [thermal electric power plant] with a 1300 megawatt capacity and in Cienfuegos Cuba's first AES [atomic electric power plant] are being built.

The Soviet Union is actively participating in realizing the development plan for Cuba's nickel industry.

Soviet-Cuban cooperation in developing the basic area of Cuban agriculture, sugar, has a complex character. In addition to the work already performed, by the end of 1985 they intend to put into operation 14 huge sugar factories with a total yield of approximately 1.4 million tons of raw sugar. The creation of a cane harvesting combine is the fruit of joint creative work by Soviet and Cuban engineers and workers. The output from the factory

built with the USSR's technical assistance in the city of Holguin is 600 of these machines per year.

Soviet and Cuban specialists are developing a plan for reconstructing the main rail line from Havana to Santiago de Cuba and at the present time are working on its completion.

With the technical assistance of the USSR, container terminals and also ocean moorings are being built at various Cuban ports.

Soviet-Cuban cooperation in the area of chemical industrial development and in particular fertilizer production has important significance for the country's economy.

The textile industry is being rebuilt and developed with Soviet assistance.

Soviet-Cuban trade is constantly growing. In the three years of the current five-year plan it has already surpassed the total trade between the two countries in the last complete five-year plan.

Cuba's belonging to the powerful commonwealth of socialist countries is a true guarantee of successful fruition by her workers of the majestic task assigned to the country by the Cuban Communist Party's Program Platform. Its goal is "the continued construction of socialism on the scientific basis of Marxism-Leninism right up to achievement of the first stage of communist society."

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PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL PLOTS DISCUSSED AT CEMA SYMPOSIUM

Moscow IZVESTIYA AKADEMII NAUK SSSR: SERIYA EKONOMICHESKAYA in Russian No 5, Sep-Oct 83 (signed to press 29 Aug 83) pp 123-127

[Article by S. I. Zavyalov: "Chronicle of Scientific Life: Private Land Plots in CEMA Countries"]

[Text] On 27-30 October 1983 the International Scientific Symposium on Private Land Plots Within the System of Socialist Agriculture was held in Moscow under the auspices of the Institute of Economics of the World Socialist System (IEMSS), USSR Academy of Sciences, and the VASKhNIL [All-Union Agricultural Academy imeni Lenin], with the active cooperation of the Tsentrsoyuz [Central Union of Consumers' Societies]. The participants in the symposium included scientists and practitioners from the agrarian-industrial sphere in the people's and socialist republics of Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Poland, Vietnam, Romania, the USSR and Czechoslovakia.

The participants in the symposium discussed problems of the theory and practice of the development of private land plots that are topical to all socialist countries. Much attention was devoted to the analysis and assessment of the specific conditions and experience in the organization of private plot farming in the individual countries.

A central problem of the theory and also practice of the present-day development of private plot farming remains, in the opinion of many participants, the question of the objective evaluation of the social nature of that farming. G. I. Shmelev (IEMSS) pointed out that the social nature of private plot farming is chiefly determined by the socio-economic features of private plot owners as workers in the socialist society as well as by the principal social and economic functions of this kind of farming. These functions directly include the provision of the means necessary to reproduce the work ability and vital activity of the owners, the provision of conditions for socially useful types of activity, participation in forming the state-wide food fund, etc. By contributing to the exploitation of the potential for increasing agricultural production, the conservation of material resources, etc., private land plots essentially expand the possibilities for the industrialization of production on publicly owned farms and objectively accelerate the growth of the socialist society. In this sense, the task of developing private land plots is an organic component of the current social tasks of the state.

G. I. Shmelev emphasized that the development of private land plots at present proceeds along the line of the expansion and deepening of co-production and the integration of small farms with the public sector. The existing close forms of cooperation between private plot farming and the public sector are resulting in the conversion of private plot farming to a distinctive branch of social production. The speech by V. Mishev (Bulgarian People's Republic) also stressed this direction of development of the socio-economic nature of private plot farming: he pointed to the close ties existing between the economics of the private plot sector and public agriculture, as well as to the radical differences between private plot farming and capitalist farm ownership (for example, private land plots are based on the personal labor of their owners, do not operate as a factor in the social differentiation of the rural population, and so on).

Z. Smolenski (Polish People's Republic) discussed these differences from the standpoint of the motivation and end-purpose of farming. The principal social and economic purpose of private plot farming is to provide the owner with means complementing his basic income from labor in the social sector of the economy. The goal of maximizing and, the more so, capitalizing income is absent here. In addition, the standards for private land plot operations are regulated by the socialist state, which assures a high degree of dependence of the private plot sector on the public farms. Kh. Khristozov (People's Republic of Bulgaria) pointed out that, despite some superficial similarity and historical relationship to small private farms (nature of productive assets, technologies, personal form of the assimilation of results of labor), private plot farming under socialism is not a sphere into which social contradictions penetrate.

Practically all the symposium participants stressed the important role which is played by private land plots in the sphere of producing agricultural output and supplying food to the population. In Bulgaria the private plot sector accounts for 25 percent of agricultural output, including 40 percent of meat, 26 percent of milk, 55 percent of eggs and 36 percent of fruits and vegetables (V. Mishev). In Hungary private land plots account for as much as 33-34 percent of agricultural output and about 23 percent of the commercial output of agriculture. These plots produce 45 percent of animal-husbandry output, including 51-52 percent of pork and 49-50 percent of poultry (Dr. Ya. Nad'). A number of specific indicators pointing to a high proportion of private farming (inclusive of private peasant farms) in the output and procurements of food in Romania was cited in the speech by O. Georgiu. Even in the countries with a relatively low proportion of private land plots, private plot farming remains an important factor in the production and sales of many foodstuffs with valuable gustatory and nutritional qualities. Thus, in the GDR in 1981, small farms accounted for the following proportions of state procurements: eggs, 38.4 percent; fruits, 24.8 percent; honey, 99.5 percent; rabbits, 99.9 percent (G. Schtopp). In this connection, E. Tot (People's Republic of Hungary) pointed out that, seen from the standpoint of the structure of the products of private plot farming, the course toward promoting that type of farming is accelerating the transition toward a qualitatively higher--in terms of assortment and structure--level of food consumption by the population. The development of private plot farming contributes to solving the food problem in the socialist countries in the sense of reducing their dependence on world food markets as well, and in certain of these countries (Hungary,

Bulgaria) the products of private land plots serve to complement the resources of exportable food.

The symposium participants devoted special attention to the analysis and evaluation of the economic aspects of the operation of private land plots. The need for a more thorough assessment of the economic role of these plots ensues, as stressed by G. I. Shmelev, from their [previous] simplified and superficial treatment and failure to consider deeper mediated relationships. Such treatment prevents a satisfactory solution of such fundamental questions as the formation of optimal proportion between large- and small-scale production in socialist agriculture, the development of criteria for a rational branch and product specialization of discrete types of farms, etc.

V. Ye. Grigorovskiy (USSR) and V. Mishev objected to the overestimation of the production-economic possibilities of small private farms, and to the attempts to oppose them on this basis to public farms. The good results (and indicators) of private land plots are chiefly due to the special features of their branch structure (high proportion of intensive crops planted, high livestock density) as well as to the assistance (feedstuffs, services, virtually gratis use of land, etc.) provided by the public farms and the state.

At the same time, V. Ye. Grigorovskiy stressed, one should not go to the other extreme and refute the validity of private land plots just because they are not in every case associated with "modern" agriculture, or because they are based on considerable expenditures of relatively unskilled manual labor. In itself this fact is not negative if the labor is applied rationally and effectively and results in a higher utilization of society's manpower resources. When evaluating private plot farming, allowance should also be made for its low capital- and materials-intensiveness and the favorable ratio between gross and net output.

This approach to assessing the economic role of private plot farming was elaborated in speeches by many of the symposium participants. It was pointed out that private land plots are the basic and sometimes sole sphere of the application of labor by extremely large categories of the population--housewives, pensioners, teenagers, and that they enhance the level of labor activity of all strata of the population (Z. Smolenski, L. Bauch, Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, V. Mishev, and others). In addition to utilizing manpower reserves, private land plots make use of numerous small farm structures, utilities and the part of land resources that is unsuitable for large-scale public farming. This circumstance is of particularly great importance to countries with limited farmland such as the GDR (G. Schtopp). Consequently, given the specific conditions of collectivized agriculture, private plot agriculture is an important form of mobilizing all resources for increasing agricultural production, and their development does not, as a rule, entail considerable additional material expenditures.

In the broad plane this question was posed by G. I. Shmelev, who pointed out that the policy of promoting private plot farming represents essentially a resource-conserving direction of the state's policy. This is particularly important nowadays that the intensive path of development is becoming typical of not only agriculture but other branches of the economy, which compounds the problem of the inter-branch allocation of resources. Support of private land

plot farming under these conditions is necessary because the development of the public sector of agriculture still involves considerable capital investments which cannot always be secured. On the basis of the Hungarian experience E. Tot stressed that the further development of private plot farming is viewed in the Hungarian People's Republic as a major way of overcoming the trend toward a growth in the capital intensiveness of agriculture. The importance of private plot farming as a factor in the conservation of material resources in Bulgaria was stressed by V. Mishev. In the animal-husbandry subsectors alone the operation of private land plots yields more than 1.5 billion lev in capital investment savings to the society. The use of small old farm structures and the like on small farms conserves resources on the scale of roughly 60 billion forints to the Hungarian People's Republic (Ya. Nad').

Assessing the effectiveness of the utilization of production resources in private plot farming, certain of the speakers suggested that the low labor productivity of that farming should not be viewed as a specific and irremediable quality of private land plots. Much depends here on the conditions of the material-technical supply of small farms and the level of the mechanization of labor processes. Allowance should also be made for the specific features of the manpower resources on private land plots, which to a large extent consist of partially able-bodied, unskilled workers, as well as for the largely recreational nature of work on many private land plots, etc. G. I. Shmelev further stressed that the productivity of small farms should not be judged on the basis of human work productivity alone. If aggregate expenditures of labor, including materialized labor, are considered, such assessments could be markedly revised. On analyzing the structure and nature of production expenditures on private land plots, E. Tot reached a similar conclusion. On private land plots the expenditures include primarily the cost of the purchased means of production and services, while lesser allowance is made for the contribution of labor and the utilization of wastes. Hence, the economic evaluation of the resources utilized on private land plots is generally low and the income per worker is not infrequently below the income per employee in social production. As a result, the technologies employed on small farms prove to be extremely economical in certain branches and types of production.

In the opinion of many symposium participants, this circumstance should be considered more fully when organizing a rational division of labor between public and small farms and their specialization in the production of discrete crops and products. In Hungary, E. Tot pointed out, support of the private plot sector is due not only to the presence of specific manpower reserves in that country and the need to halt the rise in the capital-intensiveness of agricultural production. Private land plots produce the kinds of consumer goods whose production on the basis of industrialized technologies is technically too complex or economically inexpedient. Herein are rooted the economic reasons for the preservation of the multi-sector nature of Hungarian agriculture. Hence, the question of a rational ratio between large- and small-scale agricultural production should be resolved on considering the complex whole of technical and technological conditions, economic possibilities and the social needs of society.

The papers presented by the participants provided numerous examples of the general and more particular division of functions between public and small farms, as based on the specifics of the structure of their production resources

and technologies, with allowance for technical and economic factors. The general trend is toward a decline in the contribution of private plot farming to crop growing, primarily with respect to field and plow crops, although, on the other hand, small farms produce a considerable and not infrequently major part of the output of potatoes, vegetables, fruits, berries and grapes. As a rule, the proportion of private land plots in animal-husbandry output is high, especially as regards the raising of small livestock and poultry fattening; in the individual countries this proportion is rising. The situation in dairy husbandry is more complex: the high labor-intensiveness of that husbandry, the difficult working conditions and the unsolved condition of many technical and economic problems not infrequently result in a decline in the cow population on the private plot sector. The corresponding branch specialization of public farms is clearly reflected in the growing of grain, fodder and certain principal industrial crops, etc., i.e. wherever the technical and economic premises exist for introducing large-scale labor-saving technologies.

The changes in the production structure of the private plot sector are accompanied by major changes in its social composition. This aspect was accented in the papers by Sh. Mishi, Ya. Nad', D. Varga and others. The extensive promotion of private plot farming in the Hungarian People's Republic has contributed to mobilizing for it the most varied categories and strata of the country's population. Nearly one-half of Hungarian families maintain private farms and land plots and their own livestock. As a result, in recent years the importance of private plot farming by workers occupied outside agriculture and by the urban population has been rising rapidly. In the 1970s this category of farming accounted for nearly 70 percent of the increment in the output of the private plot sector, and its share in the overall output of small farms in Hungary is approaching 50 percent. This is altering the traditional notion of private plot farming as an exclusively rural form of farming.

In recent years, according to G. I. Shmelev, certain other principal features of private plot farming have been overestimated. Thus while in the past small farms were chiefly regarded as a source of foodstuffs for the personal needs of the owner and his family, at present the importance of the marketable surplus produce of these farms has tangibly grown. In some countries an extremely large number of private land plots is largely or predominantly oriented toward developing cash-crop farming. This direction of development of the private plot sector undoubtedly has certain prospects, as noted by some participants. The cash-crop private land plots are the principal "bearers" of the tendencies toward an expanded reproduction in the private plot sector, and they are the most rapidly growing foci of concentration and specialization of production, co-production and integration with the public sector, etc.

D. Varga pointed out that the growth of this category of private plot farming entails the need to solve a number of problems such as the organic inclusion of the cash-crop output of small farms in the system of the socialist planned economy, the determination of a correspondence between income levels and labor expenditures on private land plots, etc. The speaker further pointed out that the development of cash-crop farming on private land plots presupposes an increased role of financial income and the attainment of a definite level of the profitability of commercial production. On the private land plots whose production is geared to meeting the family's own needs, the significance of this factor is smaller. The problem of equalizing the excessively high incomes of discrete groups of small producers and eliminating their monopoly

position in production and on the market should be primarily solved by "attaching" the broadest possible strata of the population to private plot farming. This also is the direction that should be pursued by a uniform—for all farm types—system of agrarian prices and of retail food prices, by a well-balanced food market and consumer market as a whole, by the elimination of occurrences of shortages of market goods, etc. Lastly, the successful development of commercial production on private land plots is inconceivable without broadening and deepening their integrative ties with public farms and food-industry enterprises.

Practically all the speeches pointed, to a greater or smaller extent, to the correspondence between the tasks and functions of private land plots and the changes occurring in the life of the socialist society at the present stage. The growing needs of the population, the improvements in market supply conditions, the growing variety of consumer goods, etc. lead to a growth in the role of private plot farming as a source of additional financial income, while at the same time this farming retains its importance primarily as a source of the foodstuffs the demand for which determines the possibilities for meeting it by the system of state-cooperative trade. A definite role in this context is also played by the variations in retail food prices in a number of socialist countries. On the other hand, the rise in the material welfare and cultural level of the working people, the increased leisure time, etc. not infrequently alter the attitude of the population toward private plot farming. In many cases the economic motives for such farming become relegated to a secondary plane, with priority given to such functions of private plot farming as meeting the need for active recreation, the amateur proclivities of the plot owner, etc. G. Schtopp dwelled on these aspects of private plot farming as regards the conditions in the GDR. Z. Smolenski in his speech touched upon the change in the functions of private plot farming for families with varying standards of living. On the whole, however, the participants found that the multiplicity of discrete conditions of development is giving birth to types of private plot farming that vary sufficiently in characteristics and tasks. Hence, a differentiated approach is needed in this field and the nature and specific features of all types of private land plots should be more fully considered in scientific research and in practice.

The symposium participants considered in very great detail the conditions that must be met for the further successful development of private plot farming. As pointed out by V. Mishev, these conditions primarily include the task of creating and subsequently perfecting an economic mechanism for regulating this sector and the conversion from primarily administrative methods of control to the broad employment of economic measures and stimuli. In most socialist countries such a mechanism is still being formed, although in some countries it has already been established in principle and functions very successfully.

Hungary's experience in this field was described in the paper by Sh. Mishi. State regulation of small farms in that country is accomplished chiefly by means of a system of procurement prices and price surcharges which allow for the quality of the products of private plot farming, the duration of procurement contracts and various other conditions. In addition, there exist discount prices for selling to private land plot owners certain types of equipment, fertilizers and building materials on convenient terms (lower interest rate, deferrals of payments); loans are granted; and an income tax system is flexibly applied on being differentiated by region of the country

and particular groups of small farms. A factor in promoting private plot farming in the Hungarian People's Republic is the well-organized supply of liquid capital and production services to private land plots. Another highly important factor in expanding private plot farming was and remains, according to Sh. Mishi, the consolidation of reproduction ties between that farming and public farms as well as state and cooperative organizations, and also the exploration of new methods for refining these ties on a long-term basis.

The complex whole of financial and tax measures, subsidies and non-price incentives operating in CEMA countries was the subject of a general review by G. I. Shmelev. He included among its shortcomings the emphasis on the promotion of the private plots producing surplus farm output. For while the increase in the commercial output of private plot farming should be encouraged, the interests of the plots farmed exclusively (or almost exclusively) for the consumption needs of their owners should not be neglected either.

Another such factor is the expansion and deepening of co-production and integration of small farms with the public sector. The symposium participants pointed to the need to promote the establishment of stable and equal relations of cooperation between both sides, based on equal consideration of the interests of both. The advantages derived by private plot owners from cooperation with socialist farms are, as a rule, obvious. They consist in stable procurement prices, solution of the problems of material-technical supply, marketing of produce, etc. But the public farms, too, as demonstrated by the example of the Hungarian People's Republic according to N. Tushor, have plenty of reasons for promoting cooperation with the private plot sector. In many cases, relations with the private plot sector yield to the public farm sector considerable indirect effects. In particular, it saves on capital outlays by entrusting part of the public livestock herd to private plot owners for upkeep and fattening. Public farms also derive other economic advantages from such cooperation owing to a rational division of labor between themselves and private plots as regards the production of selected types of produce, which enables public farms to restrict those of their own types of production which are relatively unprofitable to them.

In the opinion of the participants, the [procurement] contract remains the principal form of the development of mutual relations between private plot farming and public farming as well as, through the mediation of the latter, between private plot farming and organs of the state. The aim should be to extend contractual relations to all stages of the reproduction cycle, and to strengthen the adherence of the parties to contractual terms. In the long run, in the opinion of some participants, long-term contracts will become the principal form of contractual relations, and the further development of these relations will result in supplanting commercial contractual ties with ties directly in the sphere of production. Hence, the symposium participants showed special interest in the "cottage industry" form of private plot farming with the private plot owner essentially working to fill the orders of the public farm sector which provides him with the necessary material and economic conditions. In the opinion of Professor V. Mishev, this direction of the development of private plot farming is most promising.

G. I. Shmelev pointed to the great importance of the formation of administrative agencies responsible for the development of the private plot

sector to the smooth and efficient organization of ties between private plot farming and public farming. In some countries the functioning of these agencies is producing positive results.

Success in developing private plot farming largely hinges on the solution of the basic problems of its material-technical supply. Judging from the reports of the symposium participants, in most socialist countries the problem of providing private plot farming with liquid capital (seeds, planting materials, young livestock, feedstuffs) is the principal problem being successfully solved. The situation as regards technical supplies to private plots is more complicated.

Dr. E. Mozeshne Biro (Hungary) dwelled in detail on this aspect of the matter. She pointed out that in recent years the previously stable reserves of manpower on private farms have become largely exhausted, and hence the question of technical supplies for these farms is becoming increasingly important. Integration with public farms will help solve this problem only partially, and hence it is expedient to set up special organizations for leasing small-sized equipment units and stimulate the formation of voluntary associations of small producers with the object of acquiring and utilizing that equipment. The principal attention should be devoted to the mechanization of especially arduous types of operations: soil cultivation, transport of materials, feedstuffs, produce, etc. In recent years, Dr. Mozeshne pointed out, much has been done in this field in Hungary, but the problem of the mechanization of private plot farming is still far from solved. It should be solved through the joint efforts of the concerned countries within the framework of CEMA.

Some of the participants touched upon the legal aspects of the operation of private land plots. M. I. Kozyr' (USSR) pointed to the need for regulations governing the socialist nature of private plot farming and the right to the ownership of the attendant assets, to be included in the laws in force, especially in "Principles of the Civil Law Code of the USSR and Union Republics" as well as in the Union republic civil law codes when adjusting them to correspond with the Constitution of the USSR and Union and autonomous republics. In connection with the introduction of the contractual form of procurements of farm produce from the private land plots of citizens, the task being posed is to assess the juridical nature of these contracts, analyze their content, and generalize the experience gained in concluding them. It is also expedient to determine through the normative procedure the kinds and scope of the material responsibility of the contracting parties for the under-fulfillment or improper fulfillment of contractual terms. The speaker also touched upon the question of adjusting the legal regulations governing the private land plots of kolkhoz members to make them conform to the regulations governing private land plots owned by persons in other categories.

In conclusion, the symposium participants found themselves to be in agreement as to their views on the principal questions of the theory and practice of the

development of private land plots, and they expressed the desire to continue cooperation in this field.

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USSR-CEMA TRADE

BASIS FOR CEMA CONTRACT PRICING DISCUSSED

Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 44, 31 Oct 83 p 3

[Article by N. M. Mitrofanova: "Contract Prices Against Chaos"; passages rendered in all capital letters printed in boldface in the original source]

[Text] WHAT ARE THE CEMA MEMBER COUNTRIES DOING TO AVOID THE INFLUENCE OF THE GALLOPING PRICES ON THE CAPITALIST MARKET?

V. KHROMOV, PROPAGANDIST, RYAZAN'

THIS QUESTION IS ANSWERED BELOW BY N. M. MITROFANOVA,
DOCTOR OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES

It is not possible to escape that influence totally. However, the pricing mechanism developed jointly by the economists of the countries of socialism serves to reduce that influence to a minimum.

First of all, a reminder: contract prices are prices used in concluding international trade and economic agreements.

How are contract prices formed?

The pricing of the goods in circulation on the world socialist market is done not on the basis of the socially necessary expenditures at the national level but on the scale of the expenditures acknowledged on that market to be the international socially necessary expenditures. Under conditions when world prices are the basis for contract prices, this means that mean world expenditures are taken as the socially necessary expenditures in this case. However, this refers not to the actual level of socially necessary expenditures in capitalist trade but to the level that is objectively determined as a result of special corrections.

These corrections are made in the following ways:

--a careful selection of the most suitable basic commodity markets whose prices are taken as the base prices;

--elimination from base prices of the influence of various kinds of the boom-and-bust, speculative and inflationary factors inherent in world trade;

--assurance of comparability between contract prices and world prices from the standpoint of quality of the goods compared and conditions of payment;

--consideration of the transport cost included in the contract prices, as determined according to the geographical situation of the socialist countries with respect to world markets and each other.

The present-day method of pricing has not arisen all at once. During the initial stage of economic cooperation among the CEMA countries, when the foundations of the socialist international division of labor were still being laid, current world prices were used as the basis for contract prices. But this meant that contract prices duplicated the instability of the changing world prices. This complicated planning not only within the individual countries but also at the interstate level.

Hence, in 1957 the countries of socialism began to base contract prices not on current world prices but on the mean annual level of the latter. Somewhat later, it was decided to base contract prices on the the mean price level [of world prices] over the last 5 years prior to the planned 5-year period. This made it possible to practically "extinguish" the yearly price deviations and equalize the 5-year differences in prices. Contract prices for the 1966-1970 and 1971-1974 were based on this version, which was graphically termed the stop-price method.

The acute imbalance of the world price system since the end of 1972 necessitated another revision of the method for computing contract prices. It was decided to apply the so-called sliding-base method, more suitable to the changed conditions. Under this method the base indicator was averaged over a 5-year period as previously, but with yearly replacement of one of its components in such a manner that the prices for the 5-year period directly preceding the current year would each time serve as the base prices for the current year. For example, the base prices for 1976 were derived from world prices averaged over the 1971-1975 period, and the base prices for 1977 over the 1973-1976 period, and so on.

Essentially, this restructuring was intended to promote the gradual conversion to a new level of contract prices through more frequent revisions of the starting base level. This also made it possible to reflect more fully in the system of the foreign-trade prices of CEMA countries the economically substantiated price ratios between raw materials and finished products that evolved in recent years in international trade, as well as to allow for certain other objective tendencies in the changes in international value. For the 1981-1985 period the CEMA countries have agreed to set contract prices by the sliding-base method.

Owing to the application of this method for raising contract prices based on world prices, the increases in contract prices occurred in a more uniform and milder manner than did the elemental sharp upsurges in world prices during the last decade.

In the final analysis, this has markedly contributed to a stable and dynamic economic growth of both every CEMA member country and the entire socialist community as a whole.

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BRIEFS

USSR-CSSR EQUIPMENT CONTACTS--Consignments of Soviet mining equipment, including shaft-sinking combines and cutting-and-loading machines, as well as consignments of electrothermal equipment and power transformers, will be delivered to Czechoslovakia during the current year. This has been stipulated by contracts between the Mashinoeksport and Energomasheksport All-Union Foreign-Trade Associations and the Strojexport and Prahoinvest foreign-trade enterprises in Czechoslovakia. The latest in a series of major consignments of petroleum and gas pipes, and pipes made of stainless and high-carbon steel for the petroleum-refining and chemical industry, have arrived in our country from the Chomutov Pipe-Rolling Plant (CSSR) in conformity with contracts of the Promsyr'yeimport All-Union Foreign-Trade Association and the Czechoslovak Ferromet foreign-trade enterprise. Contracts between the Traktoroeksport All-Union Foreign-Trade Association and the Motokov enterprise stipulate shipments to the USSR from CSSR of six-row haulm removers and tractor-mounted hoists that are intended for harvesting sugar beets, hops-pickers, and other machines. [Text] [Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 2, Jan 84 p 22] 5075

MINING CARS, TROLLEYS FROM PRB, GDR--In conformity with contracts between the Mashinoimport All-Union Foreign-Trade Association and the Balkankarmimpeks (PRB) and Maschinenexport (GDR) foreign-trade enterprises, the Pleven Electric and Motor Trolley Plant imeni K. Lukanov and the machine-building plant in the city of Hellingen have begun to produce new, improved series of machines for shipments to the Soviet Union. The Bulgarian enterprise manufactures the Rekord-3 motor trolley, with a lifting capacity of 7 tons, for use in ports, at railroad stations, and warehouse areas; and the enterprise in the GDR manufactures quarry-type electric locomotives for operations in shafts and mines. [Text] [Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 2, Jan 84 p 22] 5075

SHIPS ORDERED FROM CSSR, GDR--In conformity with contracts between the Sudimport All-Union Foreign-Trade Association and the Martimplex (CSSR) and Schiffskommerz (GDR) foreign-trade associations, Soviet customers recently had turned over to them the two latest ships. Shipbuilders in Komarno (CSSR) have manufactured on the basis of a Soviet production order the Amur dry-cargo vessel (first in a new series), which is distinguished by its large degree of independence in navigation and its powerful loading and unloading equipment, and shipbuilders at the Warnowwerft shipyard (GDR) have manufactured a Merkur-type container vessel with a displacement of 16,000 tons. [Text] [Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 2, Jan 84 p 22] 5075

TRADE WITH LDC'S

SYRIAN AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION VISITS SOVIET COOPERATIVES

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 21 Dec 83 p 5

Report on interview with Muhammad Khalil Shaddad, member of People's Council of Syria, member of Bureau of the General Federation of Peasants of Syria, and head of a delegation of the General Federation during a visit to the USSR on the invitation of the Agriculture Workers' Union Central Committee, by SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' (Rural Life) correspondent V. Lapin: "With Faith in Victory"; date and place of interview not specified

Text Our delegation includes leaders of provincial committees of the General Federation of Peasants of Syria. We are very happy to visit your country and to see with our own eyes the achievements of the Soviet people. Such trips are conducive to the strengthening of mutual cooperation and are of enormous benefit for our practical activity.

Our delegation has had the opportunity to become familiar with the work practice of Soviet trade union organizations, in which we were very interested, and to see how Soviet peasants -- kolkhoz and agricultural workers -- live and work. We would like to utilize your experience in our own country for increasing labor productivity and stimulating the growth of production of agricultural output. This is very important for the development of our national economy.

We are interested not only in economic achievements of the USSR but also in its historic experience in the building of socialism. We trade union workers feel that the socialist path of development is the only correct path and are trying to ensure that our country follows precisely this path.

I should say that we no longer have large-scale privately owned land as a result of the laws adopted in Syria. More and more cooperative farms are appearing. The land is their property and a large quantity of equipment and agricultural implements is already concentrated in the hands of peasants unified in cooperatives. The cooperative movement is following the path of socialist development and this is precisely why we are so interested in your experience.

Trade union organizations in our country are now working with state and party organs for the solution of common problems. We feel that the line toward cooperation between agricultural workers and party and state organs is following Leninist policy and the plans for cooperation about which V. I. Lenin wrote in his own time.

We have already visited certain Soviet kolkhozes, in which we observed much of interest. Let us take, for example, the "22d Party Congress" Kolkhoz in Tajikistan, in which the meat and dairy direction is basic. However, the fact that this kolkhoz is engaged also in the cultivation of cotton, vegetables and fruit seemed very important to us. The fact is that cooperatives in Syria are working in just a single branch of agricultural production: animal husbandry, fish-breeding, or the growing of oil-bearing crops. We should like to transfer the experience of the "22d Party Congress" Kolkhoz to our soil, especially to a cooperative farm near Damascus which is similar to it. We feel that cooperatives should not be locked into the production of a single crop or just one type of output. They should utilize all possibilities and resources available to them.

In addition, we visited an agricultural equipment repair station. We have similar stations in our country, but on a lower level. I should like to utilize what we saw there in the creation of consolidated repair stations at the level of the provinces, which could service a number of farms.

We arrived in the Soviet Union at a grim time for our people, when American and Israeli aggressors are intensifying threats and direct military actions against the Arab peoples. However, we are inspired by the position taken and maintained now by the USSR and entire socialist camp. We are grateful for this support of the just struggle of the Arab peoples, including the people of Syria. Sustained by such support, we are firmly convinced that we will be able to defend our interests and the interests of all progressive forces in the Near East.

We support fully and value highly the Declaration of Yu. V. Andropov, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet USSR and general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and reiterate once again that Syria will not be broken by any of the forces of imperialism and Zionism. We are prepared to defend ourselves to the last drop of blood. For an example of this resolve take those American airplanes which were shot down in Lebanon by Syrian troops, who are participating within the composition of inter-Arab forces.

In any area or province of Syria people are convinced that the development and deepening of ties with the Soviet Union are conducive to the strengthening of both the internal situation in the country and also its international role. Confirmation of this can be perceived in the words of Syrian President H. al-Assad concerning the fact that the USSR is the truest and sincerest friend of Syria, which is now and will continue to be on our side because the struggle we are waging against the schemes of imperialism and Zionism is just and responds to the interests of all peace-loving forces of our region.

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